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Weekend is deadline
to save season**

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Parker Bowles
to marry**

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is such a thing
as a broken heart**

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Volume 63, No. 298 © SS 2005 G

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

50¢

Bush budgets \$430.3M for Europe construction

Grafenwöhr, Ramstein and Lakenheath slated for '06 expansion funds

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Freezing in Afghanistan

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Lance Cpl. Dan Robert, squad automatic weapon gunner with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, charges through the deep snow of the Hindu Kush mountains during cordon-and-search operations as part of Operation Spurs, a combined offensive with coalition and Afghanistan troops. About 60 civilians have died from conditions created by Afghanistan's recent cold weather.

RICH MATTINGLY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Coming Monday

Valentine's greetings
for deployed troops

Scene on Sunday

Foxx among black
actors getting kudosDon't miss a
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NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

World

Militants in Philippines: A Philippine commander demanded on Thursday the surrender of Muslim gunmen who attacked an army attackment, triggering fighting that has killed about 50 people, including 20 soldiers.

Thousands of villagers have been displaced in sporadic clashes this week between Philippine forces and fighters loyal to jailed Muslim leader Nur Misuari on the southern island of Jolo.

Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, commander of the military's Southern Command, demanded that armed Misuari followers give up their weapons and surrender those responsible for the soldiers' deaths.

Georgia prime minister: President Mikhail Saakashvili presented his nominee for prime minister to parliament on Thursday, one week after the late premier, Zaur Zhvania, was found dead in a Tbilisi apartment, apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning, but lawmakers postponed the confirmation vote for one day.

As American FBI agents investigated the apartment where Zhvania was found dead, Saakashvili urged lawmakers to approve Finance Minister Zurab Nogaidei as the new premier, but the parliament adjourned until Friday without voting to approve him. Saakashvili said that a major task for Nogaidei's Cabinet would be to create new jobs.

U.N. sexual exploitation scandal: Congo's government Thursday welcomed the United Nations' move to stop U.N. peacekeepers from sexually exploiting Congolese women and girls in this war-torn Central African nation.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday, Secretary-General Kofi Annan spelled out a number of measures taken by the United Nations and its Peacekeeping Department to tackle the problem of sexual abuse, including a non-fraternization policy for peacekeepers and a curfew for military contingents.

Madrid car bombing: The day after a car bomb attributed to the Basque separatist group ETA injured 43 people near downtown Madrid, the government on Thursday ruled out any peace talks before violence ends.

"So long as the terrorists continue practicing terror, there is no possibility other than hunting them down, pursuing them, arresting them and jailing them," said Jordi Sevilla, the minister responsible for relations between the central government and Spain's 17 semi-autonomous political regions.

In recent public comments, government officials have said ETA must not only declare a cease-fire but also give up its weapons caches.

Paris airport collapse: A decision on



Nepal government: A riot policeman detains human rights activist Basu Dewkota during a protest against Nepal's royal government in Katmandu, Nepal, on Thursday. Police in Nepal's capital arrested 12 rights activists and quashed a rally to protest the king's emergency rule Thursday, while Maoist rebels in the southwest killed five policemen and freed comrades from a jail during a raid on a town.

whether to fully or partially demolish the rest of a terminal roof that collapsed at Paris' main airport, killing four people, will be made public in about two months, the airport operator said.

The rebuilding costs after either option are about the same, "a little more" than \$128 million, said Pierre Graff, head of Airports of Paris, in an interview published Thursday.

Business

WorldCom fraud case: Jurors at the fraud trial of former WorldCom CEO Bernard Ebbers heard him tell stock analysts in April 2001 — with fraud at the company well under way — that "we do not see any storms on the horizon at this time."

The tape was played by prosecutors in New York on Wednesday, on the third day of testimony by Scott Sullivan, the former chief financial officer at WorldCom, who has implicated Ebbers in its \$11 billion ac-

counting fraud.

States

Patriots' parade arrests: A prosecutor has a deal for five teenagers arrested during the parade to celebrate the New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory. If they read a book that tells the story of drugs and desperation in a Boston neighborhood and write a report about it, he'll drop the charges.

The book that Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley wants them to read is Michael Patrick MacDonald's memoir "All Souls," about growing up in rough-and-tough projects of South Boston. Part of the deal Conley is offering requires the teens to write a 2,500-word essay about the book.

Robert Blake trial: Jurors in the Robert Blake trial heard a retired stuntman describe a murder plot worthy of a Hollywood movie, but the defense noted the witness initially told police he knew of no such scheme.

Ronald "Duffy" Hambleton held the packed Los Angeles courtroom's attention Wednesday as he described how Blake, an old associate on the "Baretta" TV series, contacted him about 20 years of silence to talk about killing Blake's wife. He was expected to take the stand again Thursday.

Hambleton, 68, gave the most detailed account yet of Blake allegedly scouting locations for the murder of Bonny Lee Bakley. He said they visited Blake's home and the restaurant near where Bakley eventually was slain in May 2001.

Blake, 71, is accused of shooting Bakley, 44, in a car near his favorite neighborhood restaurant.

Ca, teens sentenced: Two middle school students who sickened classmates with a cake containing glue and Tabasco sauce were sentenced in Marietta on Wednesday to probation by a juvenile court judge.

The 13-year-old girls, who initially had faced attempted murder charges, were found guilty of disrupting a public school, a misdemeanor. They were given sentences of nine months and a year on probation and must write essays to Judge Juanita Stedman on what they learned from the experience.

Charter school tuition hearing: The state Department of Education has scheduled a hearing to determine whether U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum must repay a school district for tuition it spent on a cyber charter school for five of his children.

Santorum, R-Pa., withdrew his children from the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School after officials in the Penn Hills School District questioned why they were paying to educate Santorum's children at the school.

School officials estimated they spent about \$100,000 on tuition for the senator's children since 2001, even though they spend most of the year in Santorum's Virginia home.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Correction

A headline on a Feb. 10 story about a class-action lawsuit should have said a group of California attorneys filed a lawsuit against the financial group.

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NCUA

Construction wisdom list tops \$430 million

Construction costs

The proposed 2006 budget for military construction within the U.S. European Command:

GERMANY

Ramstein: \$74,602,000 (family housing, airfield and munitions facilities)
Spangdahlem: \$57,859,000 (family housing, control tower, large vehicle inspection station)
Grafenwöhr: \$84,081,000 (barracks, brigade complex-forward support, live-fire support, urban assault course)
Vilseck: \$15,923,000 (barracks-phase 2, elementary school addition)
Landstuhl: \$5,572,000 (elementary/middle school classrooms)

ITALY

Aviano: \$22,660,000 (air control warehouse, family support center, consolidated support center)
Pisa: \$5,254,000 (ammunition storage facility)

PORTUGAL

Lajes Field, Azores: \$12 million (fire-crash rescue station)

TURKEY

Incirlik: \$28,510,000 (family housing, communications facility)

ENGLAND

Lakenheath: \$53,562,000 (family housing, bomb maintenance and



storage facilities)
Mildenhall: \$13,500,000 (base engineer complex)
Menwith Hill: \$41,697,000 (National Security Agency ops/tech building)

GREECE

Souda Bay: \$7,089,000 (fuel pipeline)

SPAIN

Rota: \$7,963,000 (elementary/high school multi-use building)

TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2006: \$430,272,000

SOURCE: EUCOM Public Affairs Office

PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

President's budget focuses on Army in Grafenwöhr and air bases in Germany and United Kingdom

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — President Bush is asking for \$430.3 million in military construction funds for Europe in 2006, mostly for housing and other projects at U.S. bases expected to be around for years.

Much like the 2005 construction budget, the largest amounts of funding are slated for Army facilities in Grafenwöhr, Germany, and air bases in Ramstein, Germany, and Lakenheath, England. A \$42 million operations and technology center at the National Security Agency at Menwith Hill, England, has also been requested.

Most of the rest of the funds are for other bases that military officials say fit in with the military's long-range plan to become more responsive to security needs in Africa and the Middle East, such as the air base at Incirlik, Turkey, and Naval Station Rota, Spain.

The spending proposals also have some hurdles to clear before they become law, according to Tom Roberts, EUCOM's legislative affairs specialist.

Marine Gen. James L. Jones, the EUCOM commander, is scheduled to testify before Congress in March as to the necessity and long-range value of the projects. Both the Senate and House of Representatives will scrutinize the proposal and work out any changes in their respective committees.

"They're going to be looking for assurances from Gen. Jones that the money we're asking for in military construction is going to be spent on things that are going to be around for a while," Roberts said.

Some of the projects in the new budget are large, such as ongoing establishment of Grafenwöhr as the U.S. military's premier training site for American troops and those from allied nations. This year, \$126.4 million is scheduled to be spent at the vast site, with another \$84 million requested for next year.

Others requests are smaller, such as \$12 million for a new fire station at Lajes Field in the Azores, Portugal.

"The [current facility] is out-of-date," Col. Barbara Jacob, commander of the 65th Air Base Wing, said in an e-mailed response. "It's a converted aircraft hanger, and it doesn't support the size of our half-million-dollar vehicles. Secondly, it will relocate the facility closer to where it's needed."

The proposed fire station would be built in a more central location to the military air base and commercial airport, which share the airspace.

Bush's \$430.3 million request for 2006 is slightly more than the \$427.4 million he asked for in this year's budget, of which \$396.3 million was approved by Congress.

The same process must be followed this year.

"[Members of Congress] have a constitutional duty to do some fact-finding on budget requests," Roberts said. "It's a joint effort. The president submits the budget, but there is no [money] unless the House and Senate pass the same bill, and the president gets involved again by signing it."

Roberts said that Congress typically approves the vast majority of the president's military construction requests. The bill is normally signed in September.

No construction funding was requested for many of the older Army bases in Germany, which could be vacated in coming years. The Army has previously announced that large units such as the Würzburg-based 1st Infantry Division and Wiesbaden-based 1st Armored Division will eventually be moved to the United States.

Many of those bases, however, would be seeing housing upgrades in coming years that would be paid for as part of the Pentagon's separate Sustainment, Restoration and Maintenance budget, officials from the U.S. European Command said earlier this week.

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Kids of deployed parents have a comfort Zone at Lakenheath

Program lets worried children focus on something else for awhile

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — The base has developed a new program called Kids Deployment Zone in an effort to take kids' minds off missing their deployed parents.

KIDZ, backed with \$9,500 from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, is part of Combat Care, one of several programs created by Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, the USAFE commander.

The Family Support Center does a fantastic job supporting families as a whole," said Matt Driver, director of Lakenheath Youth Programs and architect of the new program. "We did not have a program in place for children."

Run by teenagers, the program's aim is to give some relief to the heart left behind. Currently, the 48th Fighter Wing has more than 1,100 troops deployed to the Middle East.

About 100 children have signed up since the program was unveiled less than two weeks ago at a town hall meeting for families

of deployed troops.

The children will be invited to exclusive parties, enjoy free entry at the skating rink — along with free skate rental — and have access to digital cameras to send their deployed parent a photo. A party is planned for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Lakenheath Youth Center.

Laurel Edgar, coordinator of teen activities at the base, said the program "recognizes that kids miss their parents."

Two of the children who joined are Marion and Darius Sims, sons of Tech. Sgt. Damien Sims, of the 48th Security Forces Squadron, who is now deployed.

"He's not going to come home until the swimming pool is fixed," said Darius, 6, meaning his father will return in the spring when the weather warms.

Marion, 8, demonstrated how much he misses his father. An activity in a magazine given to KIDZ children asks them to circle words that describe how they feel with their parent away.

Edgar asked Marion which words he circled. He recalled,

"Awful. Sad. Upset. Worried. Unhappy."

The program has been placed in the hands of teens at the base. Members of the Keystone Club are organizing events and acting as big brothers and big sisters for the children.

Business cards with the teens' names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses have been given to KIDZ members. A senior at Lakenheath High School, Ashley Lariviere, said she has received e-mails from two children, one asking for help with homework.

"It was cool," she said. "This is actually going to work."

Tara Stone, a freshman, and Dana Foster, a sophomore, are members of the Keystone Club and said helping out with the KIDZ children is a good use of their time.

"I like helping out people," said Tara, 17. "It feels good. It's worth my while rather than sitting around watching TV."

Tara's mother is deployed, she said, so "I can relate to it. Everybody's got a parent deployed at some time."



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Darius Sims, 6, left, and his brother, Marion, 8, miss their father, Tech. Sgt. Damien Sims, who is deployed with the 48th Security Forces Squadron at RAF Lakenheath, England. The two boys have joined the Kids Deployment Zone, a new program at the base for children of deployed parents.

Capt. Sean Fitzpatrick, a social worker with the 48th Medical Group, is left at home with three children — Nicholas, 9, Ben, 7, and Patrick, 5 — while his wife, Capt. Holly Fitzpatrick, also of the medical group, is deployed.

He has enrolled his children in KIDZ and said it is a good idea for children and parents.

"Especially here overseas where you don't have all the fami-

ly support you have in the States," he said. "It helps the kids get out of the house."

Although still in its beginning stages, the program seems destined to work, said Driver.

"From the start, we can tell this is a program we'll be keeping," he said, "and it will be getting bigger."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estrp.esd.mil

Lakenheath tries to rock inspection team

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Security forces cars with flashing lights escorted the blue Air Force bus across the base.

As the bus pulled into the parking lot of the Eagles' Landing officers' club Wednesday evening, several hundred 48th Fighter Wing airmen blew shrill whistles and chanted the wing's nickname, "Lib-er-tee! Lib-er-tee!"

When the bus rolled to a stop, several airmen surrounded it and rocked it back and forth while the cacophony continued.

Just who was on board? The Super Bowl champion New England Patriots? The cast of "Desperate Housewives"? Britney?

No, it was the 2005 Installation Excellence Award team — a general and a handful of colonels in civilian clothes.

This is what happens when \$1 million is at stake. That's the prize RAF Lakenheath is competing for against Misawa Air Base, Japan, and McConnell Air Force Base,

Kan., in the Commander-in-Chief Award for Installation Excellence.

"Welcome to Laken-Heaven," Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews said as he introduced the team lined up beside him on a stage.

The team, led by Brig. Gen. Mark W. Anderson, had just arrived in England from Japan, where they inspected Misawa. They have already visited McConnell.

"They saved the best for last," Matthews said to the cheering crowd.

The welcoming rally was designed to show enthusiasm, which may or may not help as the team members inspect every nook and cranny of the base before leaving Friday.

Maj. Gary Schneider, commander of the 48th Civil Engineering Squadron operations flight, said the five officers would make 230 stops in less than two days to judge the base's worthiness.

"We've been incredibly busy," Schneider said in an interview before the bus arrived. "Every unit on base is involved."

The award is not about appearance, although that's part of it, Schneider said, and the reason people with rakes and shovels have been obvious around the base this week.

"It's all about excellence in what we do," he said. "It's about making the mission happen."

The inspection takes place while the wing is supporting more than 1,100 of its members deployed to the Middle East.

The team will look at several things, including work environment, quality of life, productivity, customer satisfaction and unit cohesiveness.

The winner will be announced in the spring.

If RAF Lakenheath is successful, Matthews will travel to Washington to pick up the trophy, a flag denoting the base's honor and a letter of congratulations signed by the president.

The money will be used for quality-of-life improvements on the base.

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RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Senior Airman Nicholas Schiro welcomes the Installation Excellence Award team to RAF Lakenheath, England.

Assigned to Pentagon

NAPLES, Italy — Rear Adm. Stanley Bozin, commander of Navy Region Europe and Maritime Air Forces, Mediterranean, will be leaving Naples for a new assignment at the Pentagon.

Bozin has been tapped to be director of the Office of Budget under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and Comptroller, according to a release.

Bozin took over the Fleet Air Mediterranean combined staff in September 2003, and assumed control of Navy Region Europe in April 2004.

Sweet homecoming

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Four more Air Force jets returned 392 1st Infantry Division soldiers home to their bases in Germany on Thursday, a 1st ID spokeswoman said.

The soldiers represent 16 units, said Spc. Rebecca Sharpton, coming from bases in Würzburg, Schweinfurt, Kitzingen and Katterbach. The largest groups included 144 soldiers from the 9th Engineer Battalion; 54 from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment; and 34 from the 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment.

Six more flights from Iraq are due back in Germany on Friday, Sharpton said.

Sentenced to 9 months

A Vilseck, Germany-based soldier was sentenced to nine months in prison Monday after pleading guilty to having sex with a 14-year-old girl, according to a trial summary released by the 1st Infantry Division's staff judge advocate.

Pfc. Matthew Summers, 21, of the 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, met the ninth-grader in March 2004 while she was in the care of a female soldier who was his friend. According to the summary, he acknowledged having consensual sex with the girl during a weekend party at a hotel in Hohenfels. Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall also fined Summers \$800 a month for the nine months of his incarceration.

From staff reports

Nations still mull Kosovo's progress, future

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

An international meeting on the future of Kosovo last week did not take a stand on the province's sought-for independence, but six nations vowed to take the first step toward settling its status this summer.

The Pristina meetings were held on the heels of a report by the Brussels, Belgium-based International Crisis Group, which called for independence as a brake against the rekindled flames of war.

The countries of the "Contact Group," however, announced that they would review Kosovo's progress on issues such as democratic reform, a free market, law and minority safety in mid-2005.

If the results are good, then and only then would they tackle the subject of whether Kosovo would remain part of Serbia.

A statement released by the State Department declared that the group emphasized that the future of Kosovo "will depend on a positive outcome of this comprehensive review."

The statement dovetailed with the public policy of the United States toward the region, but six countries prepared the text.

The group is composed of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the Russian Federation.

Its representatives met with the United Nations, NATO-led peacekeepers and local government officials and opposition and minority leaders on Feb. 1 and 2.

The talk-tank report called for independence by 2006.

"Time is running out for Kosovo," it began. "The status quo will not hold.... The Albanian majority expects the international community to begin delivering this year on its independence aspirations."

The Europe program director for the crisis group said the governments' release was not surprising. "It said pretty much what I'd expect it to say," Nicholas Whyte said.

He nonetheless hoped further meetings would finally settle the question in favor of independence. He added that the February meetings "were a step in that direction."

"My understanding is that there's many things going behind the scenes, but I wouldn't want to comment any further in the media," Whyte said.



TOMAS ROFAKAR/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from Troop C of the 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, serving as peacekeepers in Kosovo inspect a barn for illegal contraband.

Serbia maintains that Kosovo belongs to it; ethnic Serbs inside the province, too, agree. Ethnic Albanians want out.

According to the U.S. Office of Pristina, the contact group will continue to meet regularly.

A spokesman for the office said Kathleen Stephens, the deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs, represented Washington at the most recent meetings.

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Listen up

Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Rice, a surface warfare machinist's mate of the USS Emory S. Land's engineering department, takes soundings from the ship's feed water tank. The USS Emory S. Land is deployed to the Gulf of Guinea to help enhance cooperation between the U.S. Navy and Gulf of Guinea nations. About 1,400 sailors and Marines are part of the deployment.

JONATHAN KULP/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

1st black chaplain finally gets much sought-after ruling

By STEPHEN MANNING
The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Born into slavery, Henry Vinton Plummer served honorably in the Union Navy during the Civil War, went on to attend seminary, then became the Army's first black chaplain.

But Plummer's stellar career went bad in 1894: While chaplain, he was court-martialed and dishonorably discharged for drinking with an enlisted man and cursing in front of the man's wife and children.

More than a century later, an Army board has upheld the court-martial but granted Plummer a posthumous honorable discharge, said Brian Busey, an attorney for Plummer's descendants.

The Army board determined that Plummer's court-martial was conducted properly and that modern legal standards should not be applied to a case that is more than a hundred years old.

"They obviously were worried about a precedent that opens the door for other cases," Busey said Wednesday of the decision not to reverse the court-martial.

Plummer's descendants had wanted him to be given an honorable discharge and did not seek any financial compensation. They filed an appeal in February 2004 with the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, arguing the chaplain was convicted on very little evidence because of his race and because of animosity from his superior officers. The jury was all white.

Plummer was born into slavery in 1844 on a plantation in Prince George's County, outside Washington, D.C. He escaped when he was 18 and eventually joined the Union Navy during the Civil War, receiving an honorable discharge in 1865.

He went to seminary and became a Baptist minister, settling in Prince George's County after the war. In 1884, he joined the Army as a commissioned officer and served in a unit comprised of black soldiers that became known as the Buffalo Soldiers. He later posted at Fort Robinson in Nebraska with the 9th Cavalry.

According to the family, while with the 9th, Plummer clashed with his unit's white commanders, unsuccessfully seeking access to officers' quarters and pushing for temperance on the base.

But what eventually did Plummer in, according to



Henry Vinton Plummer, a former slave and the first black Army chaplain, is seen in a photo from the 1800s. An Army review board has upheld Vinton's 19th-century court-martial, but granted him an honorable discharge, according to an attorney.

the family's petition, was a running dispute he had with a black enlisted man.

The sergeant claimed Plummer had given him money to buy alcohol and had cursed in front of his wife and children. The petition claims Plummer thought the money was for milk and the allegations about cursing were not true. He was convicted after an 11-day trial.

Upon his discharge, Plummer moved his family to Kansas City and spent the rest of his life trying to clear his name, including writing letters to the Army and President Grover Cleveland. He died in 1905.

DOD civilians to get paid based on performance

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's new personnel rules will jettison parts of a civil service system that for decades have meant steady pay increases for civilian workers and several layers of protection against arbitrary firings or discipline, according to a Pentagon briefing for Congress on Wednesday.

Under the National Security Personnel System, pay raises, now driven largely by longevity, instead will be tied to annual performance evaluations that take into account an employee's conduct and professional demeanor.

The new system would toss out the 15-grade General Schedule pay system and replace it with one of "pay bands," offering fewer, larger salary ranges.

Offering fewer, larger salary ranges tied to jobs more broadly grouped by occupation and employee skill level, according to a 12-page summary given to House and Senate staffers.

The document indicates that the Pentagon's new personnel system will be similar to new rules announced for the Department of

Homeland Security last month. The Defense plan, to be phased in over four years, will affect about 750,000 workers, compared with 110,000 at DHS.

The Pentagon says managers will be able to hire workers faster through a streamlined process, although veterans will still have an edge over other applicants. The system also changes the rules for layoffs to emphasize job performance rather than seniority in determining who stays and who doesn't.

The new system will toss out the 15-grade General Schedule pay system and replace it with one of "pay bands," offering fewer, larger salary ranges.

Workers rated as "outstanding" will get larger pay increases than others, and unacceptable performers will receive no raises, the summary says. A raise or promotion — moving up in a pay band or rising to the next one — will depend on receiving a successful performance rating from a supervisor.

Congress paved the way for the new system in 2003 when it gave the Pentagon the authority to rewrite the personnel rules. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had argued that the current system was outdated, rewarded poor performers as well as strong ones and greatly limited the department's ability to fight global terrorism.

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Ex-AF secretary cited for ethics violations

Inspector general says Roche missed office

BY R. JEFFREY SMITH

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Former Air Force secretary James Roche violated two military ethics rules when he urged a defense contractor to hire the brother of a senior official while the Air Force was trying to win OMB endorsement of a new \$30 billion aircraft leasing program, according to the Defense Department's top auditor.

Roche missed his public office for someone else's private gain and violated Pentagon rules governing the personal use of e-mail systems in his dealings on the matter, Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz said in a previously undisclosed Jan. 31 letter to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Schmitz told the lawmakers he provided the results of his inquiry into Roche's actions to the office of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld late last year, but a spokesman for Rumsfeld, Bryan

Whitman, said Rumsfeld has not yet read it. Roche did not reply to messages sent Wednesday by the Air Force on behalf of The Washington Post, but he told Schmitz during the probe that his intervention was personal and not official, and thus he believed he violated

Roche said his note to a Northrop official was a personal communication to a friend.

no Pentagon rules.

Schmitz's criticisms of Roche revolved around an e-mail exchange in 2003 between Roche and OMB Associate Director Robin Cleveland. They are the latest in a series of the inspector general's office has made against the Air Force and its management

over the handling of a three-year-old proposal to lease Boeing 767 jet aircraft for use as military refueling planes.

Dealings between Air Force and Boeing officials on the tankers have resulted in two criminal indictments, stymied the careers of senior Air Force military officers and prompted senior Boeing officials to resign.

Roche resigned Jan. 20, partly in an effort to fend off continuing congressional criticism of the tanker leasing deal, according to the Air Force's top acquisitions official, Marvin Sambur, who described his own January resignation as motivated by that aim.

In the e-mail, Cleveland, who oversees the budgeting of national security programs, sent Roche a resume for her brother on May 9, 2003, saying: "I would appreciate anything you can do to help with NG (Northrop Grumman)" — a firm where Roche had been a senior executive.

Her request came as the administration was trying to develop a



Courtesy of the DVC

Former Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche has been cited for ethics violations by the Defense Department's inspector general.

consensus on the leasing plan, which other top OMB officials had called a waste of money. Roche forwarded Cleveland's e-mail to a senior Northrop lawyer, with his own endorsement of her brother. He told Cleveland what he had done, adding, "Be well, Smile. Give tankers now (Oops, did I say that? ...)"

Northrop did not hire Cleveland's brother. Roche protested to Schmitz, in a letter sent before his resignation, that his note to the Northrop official was a personal communication to a friend. But Schmitz told lawmakers that he did not accept this explanation and that Roche had wrongly indicated the Air Force endorsed the brother's employment.

Closure of Rhein-Main means work elsewhere

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The Air Mobility Command's workload probably won't be getting any lighter, but some of the place it's done are changing.

That's a quick version of a key message Col. Tim Grosz, commander of the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group, delivered this week to senior leaders from more than a dozen remote sites — known as geographically separated units.

"Our biggest issue is the Rhein-Main [Air Base] transformation project," Grosz said Thursday in Aviano on the final day of the group's annual gathering.

The 726th Air Mobility Squadron that's stationed at the military base adjoining Frankfurt International Airport will relocate to Spangdahlem Air Base at the start of October — just a few months before Rhein-Main closes. Much of the 726th's workload will follow the squadron from Rhein-Main to Spangdahlem. Ramstein Air Base, where the group is headquartered, will also see increased action.

After Rhein-Main closes by December this year, the base will revert to the Frankfurt airport.

Grosz said the move to Spangdahlem is critical because after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, the Air Mobility Command has seen a "huge increase" in its workload. For the 721st, that means about 2,000 airmen spread out in 11 countries from Portugal to Qatar are kept busy ferrying personnel

and supplies to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You name it, we're bringing it," Grosz said when asked what types of cargo were being shipped. A combination of military aircraft and leased commercial aircraft are used to handle the mission.

Many of those flights have been passing through Rhein-Main. Ramstein estimated that Rhein-Main and Ramstein each handle 7,000 flights a year under 721st auspices.

But there are changes outside Germany, as well. Naval Station Rota in Spain and Aviano Air Base in Italy are both building new parking areas for cargo aircraft. Aviano's Detachment 3 will evolve into the 724th Air Mobility Squadron in March, though officials say that doesn't necessarily mean the base will see an increase in cargo aircraft.

The Aviano detachment, which hosted the annual gathering for the first time, also learned it had recently won an Air Force-level honor. It was named best small air terminal, which includes cargo and personnel categories. Ramstein's 723rd Air Mobility Squadron won for best large air terminal.

Grosz said the annual meeting is important because it gives the geographically separated units time to discuss issues.

"It's nice to have some face-to-face time with everyone," he said.

But that doesn't mean the group has stopped its mission for three days.

"We work 365 days a year," he said. "We don't have a break."

E-mail: Kent Harris at: harris@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Bipartisan legislative effort backs bill to expand reservists' benefits

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — A bipartisan group of legislators unveiled a new bill Wednesday that would improve retirement and healthcare benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Rep. Tom Latham from Iowa and Sen. Lindsey Graham from South Carolina, both Republicans, are spearheading the bill, called the Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act of 2005.

The bill has two major components: a provision that would allow Guardsmen and reservists to buy coverage using Tricare, the military's health-care system, whether or not they are mobilized; and a decrease in the military retirement age that is based on the number of years a reservist has served.

Right now, only mobilized reservists are allowed to sign up themselves and their families for Tricare, thanks to a provision passed by Congress last year.

Like many working Americans, reservists frequently cannot afford medical insurance, Latham said Tuesday during a press conference announcing the bill.

The senator cited a U.S. government study released in April 2003 that found that 20 percent of Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers are uninsured.

A study General Accounting Office found that as many as 40 percent of Guards and reservists who live in the Midwest are uninsured.

"A healthier force will make [reservists] safer, it will make us

safer, but it's also just the right thing to do," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a co-sponsor of the bill, said during a press conference announcing it Tuesday.

Yet to be determined is the cost of monthly premiums to reservists who elect Tricare, said Mark Olansoff, executive director of the Retired Enlisted Association in Alexandria, Va., one of several reserves advocacy organizations supporting the bill.

The bill also proposes making retirement benefits available earlier, using a formula that would shave one year off the current 60-year retirement benchmark for every two years of service over 20 years.

Right now, reservists can't start collecting retirement pay until they turn 60, regardless of how long they have served in the military.

If the bill passes, a reservist with 20 years of service could draw retirement pay at age 60, while a reservist with 34 years could retire as early as age 53.

The longer and more frequent deployments that are resulting from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan mean many reservists are contributing less money to their tax-deferred private retirement plans, Latham said.

Lowering the retirement age, he said, would give reservists an incentive to continue serving.

The bill's provisions would cost taxpayers an estimated \$7 billion over five years, Latham said. The bill's other co-sponsors include Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.; Mike DeWine, R-Ohio; George Allen, R-Wash.; Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.; and Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga.; and Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C.

E-mail: Lisa Burgess at: burgess@starsandstripes.osd.mil



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Marines carry out operation in harsh Afghan weather



Left: Second Lt. Caleb Weiss, platoon commander, and Sgt. Nick Lentz, squad leader, both with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, lead their troops during a cordon and search of a village in Korangal Valley, Afghanistan, during Operation Spurs, a combined offensive with coalition and Afghanistan troops. Right: Marines leap from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter hovering above the snowy hills of Korangal during Operation Spurs. Afghans say this year's snowfall is the heaviest in years. Officials said more than three feet of snow fell in many areas.

PHOTOS BY RICH MATTINGLY
Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps



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Iraq to close borders during Shiite holiday

Car bomb misses U.S. convoy, kills 2 Iraqis

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — With violence on the rise after the Jan. 30 election, Iraqi officials announced they would seal the country's borders for five days this month around a major Shiite religious holiday. Last year during the holiday, about 180 people were killed in suicide attacks at Shiite shrines.

Also Thursday, a car bomb detonated by remote control exploded in central Baghdad, killing two Iraqis but missing a U.S. military convoy as insurgent violence claimed at least 43 lives. Clashes between Iraqi police and rebels erupted along a major highway southeast of the capital.

A statement by the office of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said all borders would close from midnight Feb. 17 until midnight Feb. 22.

The announcement said only the defense the security and guarantee the Iraqi citizens' safety.

Thursday marks the first day of the Islamic month of Muharram. The 10th of Muharram, or Ashura, is the holiest day of the Shiite Muslim calendar, marking the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in a 7th century battle for leadership of the Islamic world.

During last year's Ashura ceremonies, which took place March 2, simultaneous explosions ripped through crowds of worshippers at Shiite Muslim shrines in Umm al-Qura and Karbala, killing at least 181.

Hundreds of thousands of Shiites around the world traditionally gather at Hussein's tomb in Karbala and other Shiite holy sites in Iraq during Ashura.

The car bomb detonated on Tahrir Square in the heart of Baghdad, shattering the window and setting several other cars on

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,453 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,110 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,315 U.S. military members have died, according to

AP's count. That includes at least 1,001 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday in an ambush north of Baghdad.

■ A soldier died Tuesday of a gunshot wound at the Balad base.

■ A soldier was killed Sunday while on patrol in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Capt. Sean L. Brock, 29, Redondo Beach, Calif.; died Feb. 2 from wounds received in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Zachary R. Wohler, 24, Ottawa, Ohio, died Sunday in Mosul, Iraq, when his patrol came under fire, assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 35th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

fire. At least two Iraqis were killed and two others were wounded, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. James Hutton said.

An American military patrol had just passed through the area but there were no U.S. casualties, Hutton said.

Most of the attacks Thursday were against Iraq's security forces, part of an apparent insurgent campaign to undermine public confidence after police and soldiers managed to prevent catastrophic attacks during the elections.

The biggest attack occurred in Salman Pak, 12 miles southeast of Baghdad, when insurgents attacked Iraqi policemen who came

to look for weapons, showering them with machine-gun fire, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds, police said.

Seven Iraqi police were killed in the two-hour gunbattle and eight were wounded, U.S. officials said. American troops evacuated some of the wounded, the U.S. command said, and residents said American helicopters were prowling the skies.

Elsewhere, bodies of 20 Iraqi truck drivers who had been shot were found dumped on a road, their hands bound behind their backs, police Capt. Ahmed Ismail said. Some of the trucks were owned by the government, Ismail said.



AP photos

A woman kisses an image of Imam Hussein in the center of a religious poster Thursday in the Sadr City area of Baghdad. Hussein was beheaded in nearby Karbala in 680 AD in a battle over the line of succession to the Prophet Mohammed that is celebrated by Shiites as the festival of Ashura. Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced the nation's borders would be closed during the holiday to prevent violence.

Meanwhile, Osama bin Laden's top deputy criticized the U.S. concept of freedom in an audiotape aired Thursday night on the TV satellite station Al-Jazeera. But it appeared the tape was just a replay of an old tape, previously made public earlier this month.

On the tape, Ayman al-Zawahiri criticized the American concept

of freedom, saying the United States actually was acting as an invader and occupier.

However, the audiotape appeared to be identical to the transcript of an al-Zawahiri tape that was posted on an Islamic web site on Feb. 2. Staff at the television station said they first heard of the tape from a news agency and initially believed it was new.

U.S. hopeful NATO will send more trainers to Iraq

The Associated Press

NICE, France — U.S. allies in Europe have so far mustered fewer than 100 trainers to go to Iraq to assist in the modest NATO mission there, but a top American general said Thursday he was hopeful they would offer several dozen more in the coming weeks.

"We've asked for more than what has

been provided so far," said Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who oversees the effort to train and equip Iraqi security and military forces. Petraeus joined U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Nice for a meeting of NATO defense ministers.

Later Thursday, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, speaking to reporters in Nice, said he hopes to see the total NATO commitment in Iraq rise to

about 360, a figure that includes security personnel to protect the trainers.

The NATO mission in Iraq, while small, aims to develop Iraq's military on a strategic level, rather than train individual soldiers.

Bush administration officials have also advocated the NATO mission as a way of pushing the alliance to transform into a more deployable, internationally involved force.

Other NATO allies have declined Washington's appeal to send trainers to Iraq but have offered equipment, money or training outside Iraqi borders.

Officials say roughly 100 trainers are in Iraq now. Some are Americans working under the NATO banner, but precise figures were unavailable. Petraeus said the goal is to get that to 159 trainers from NATO nations.

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IN THE WORLD

N. Korea makes claim to nukes

Nation says it won't engage in 6-way talks

BY BURT HERMAN
The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea boasted publicly for the first time Thursday that it has nuclear weapons and said it will stay away from disarmament talks, dramatically raising the stakes in the two-year-old nuclear dispute despite softened rhetoric from the United States aimed at luring the communist nation back to the negotiating table.

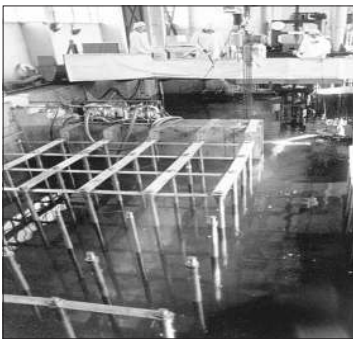
North Korea's pronouncement posed a grave challenge to President Bush, who started his second term with a vow to end North Korea's nuclear program through six-nation talks.

"We ... have manufactured nukes for self-defense to cope with the Bush administration's more than unambiguous policy to isolate and stifle the [North]," the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement in English carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Previously, U.S. negotiators said North Korean officials claimed in private talks that they had nuclear weapons and might test one.

The North's U.N. envoy also said last year the country had "weaponized" plutonium from its pool of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods.

But Thursday's statement was the first claim directly from North Korea's state media that it has a nuclear weapon, confirming the widely held beliefs of international experts that the country already has one or two atomic bombs. North Korea is not known to have performed any nuclear tests and kicked out U.N. inspectors in 2002, so there is no way to verify its claims.



North Korea's spent nuclear fuel rods, kept in a cooling pond, are seen at the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, North Korea, in this 1996 photo. North Korea on Thursday announced publicly for the first time that it has nuclear weapons, and rejected disarmament talks.

The United States and South Korea, the North's main rivals, downplayed the revelation and urged the North to return to the six-nation disarmament talks that began in 2003 and also include China, Japan and Russia.

Analysts suggested the move may be one of the impoverished state's negotiating tactics aimed at getting more compensation in exchange for giving up its nuclear aspirations.

In a clear overture to North Korea to help foster the nuclear talks, Bush refrained from direct criticism of the country in last week's State of the Union address.

He mentioned the North only in a single sentence, saying Washington was "working closely with gov-

ernments in Asia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions."

Bush has previously branded the North part of an "axis of evil" that included Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Washington now must rely on its allies with more direct influence over the North — China and South Korea — to enervate North Korea to negotiate.

"The question now is whether Washington is able to persuade and cajole Seoul and Beijing to bribe and pressure North Korea to resume the six-party talks," said Gary Samore of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. "The U.S. has absolutely no influence, except through other countries."

Rice warns North to avoid global isolation

The Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday that North Korea should return to disarmament talks and avoid a path toward further international isolation. "The world has given them a way out and we hope they will take that way out," she said.

Rice's comments came after North Korea stated explicitly that it has nuclear weapons and said that it needs them as protection against an increasingly hostile United States.

"The North Koreans have been told by the president of the United States that the United States has no intention of attacking or invading North Korea," Rice said during a news conference here with European Union leaders.

"There is a path for the North Koreans that would put them in a more reasonable relationship with the rest of the world," she said, referring to an international disarmament effort that includes the United States.

Asked to analyze the thinking in Pyongyang, Rice was almost dismissive.

"I'm not sure anyone ever gets very far by trying to second-guess the motivation of the North Korean regime," she said.

Abbas fires top officials

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Reacting forcefully Thursday to Hamas rocket and mortar fire in Gaza in defiance of a fresh cease-fire with Israel, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas fired his top security commanders and sent a message to the militants that he will not tolerate further truce violations.

Among about 20 senior officials to lose their jobs were the top two commanders, Brig. Gen. Abdel Razeek Majadeh, chief of public security, and police chief Saeb al-Ajedy, security officials said, a clear sign that Abbas is serious about enforcing the two-day-old truce.

Iran responds to Bush

TEHRAN, Iran — A month after President Bush warned that the United States hasn't ruled out military action against Iran, President Mohammad Khatami responded Thursday that his country would turn into a "scorching hell" for any possible attackers.

Khatami's comments, before a crowd of tens of thousands to mark the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, came amid escalating rhetoric between the United States and Iran. Washington accuses Tehran of maintaining a nuclear weapons program, which Iran says is for peaceful purposes.

From The Associated Press

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World urges Pyongyang back to nuclear talks

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN

The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea's state media Thursday said it had nuclear weapons and would boycott talks on its atomic programs as well as a possible negotiating gambit, and governments urged it to return to the bargaining table.

Japan, one of the six nations that have met three times since 2003 to try to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions, said it was not immediately alarmed, since the aim was unclear.

North Korea announced for the first time through its state-run media that it has nuclear weapons, and rejected moves to restart disarmament talks, saying it needs to defend against an increasingly hostile United States.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, whose inspectors were kicked out of North Korea in 2002, said the country remained its "single highest priority."

Some blamed the widening of the rift between North Korea and the United States on missteps by both sides.

"Pyongyang's moves and Washington's excessively harsh stance have thwarted attempts to reach a compromise," Konstantin Kosachev, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Russia's lower house of parliament, told the Interfax news agency.

However, Japan also cautioned against overreacting.

"They have used this sort of phrasing every so often," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters. "They didn't say anything particularly new."

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Saudi election

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Male voters converged at polling stations in the Riyadh region on Thursday to participate in city elections, the first time Saudis are taking part in a vote that largely conforms to international standards. Women were banned from running or voting.

Prince Mansour bin Miteb, head of the election commission, said voter turnout was "very reasonable" shortly before polls closed on Thursday.

IKEA opening stampe

LONDON — A man was stung and five other people were taken to hospital after thousands of customers caused a stampede at the midnight opening of a new IKEA furniture store in London, British authorities said Thursday.

Some 6,000 people flocked to the Swedish furniture store, which was offering special bargains including leather sofas for \$84.

Transportation strike

ROME — Travelers in Italy faced disruptions from strikes Thursday, with Italian carrier Alitalia scrapping about 140 flights and the national rail network warning of cancellations through Friday.

The four-hour walkout by Alitalia workers started at 12:30 p.m. In a separate protest, railway workers were scheduled to walk off their jobs for 24 hours starting at 9 p.m. (2000GMT) Thursday.

Annan on U.N. role

LONDON — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan insisted Thursday the international body had an important role to play in world affairs, but needed improvement.

"You see the world needs a forum for collective decision-making and it needs an instrument of collective action," said Annan, addressing a London seminar on U.N. reform.

From The Associated Press

Pope leaves hospital after 10 days

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II left a Rome hospital in his white popemobile Thursday, 10 days after suffering breathing spasms that left him bedridden and rekindled debate about his ability to continue leading the Roman Catholic Church.

Under heavy security, the 84-year-old pope was bundled into the vehicle inside a covered entrance to Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic to shield him from the winter chill.

Police sealed off St. Peter's Square to tourists, and hundreds of cheering Romans lined the route to the Vatican.

The pontiff waved to the crowds and blessed the faithful standing along the 2½-mile route to the Vatican. His return was broadcast live on television.

The bulletproof popemobile is equipped

with a hydraulic lift, which makes it easier for the pontiff, who walks with difficulty, to get into than a limousine.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said at midday Thursday that the frail pope had recovered completely from the breathing crisis that led to his urgent hospitalization Feb. 1, and his general condition continued to improve.

Navarro-Valls said a battery of tests, including a CT scan, had ruled out any new illnesses.

The pope, who also suffers from Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee ailments, was rushed by ambulance to Gemelli two days after coming down with the flu. A Vatican official said the situation was "serious, very serious" when he first arrived at the hospital.

The pope's return to his apartment in the

Vatican's Apostolic Palace coincided with the start of a traditional Lenten period of spiritual reflection for the pontiff, during which he has no public ceremonies. The break will give the pope a chance to regain his strength before Easter services without having to cancel anything.

"When he gets back to the Vatican he will look over and decide with his doctors what his appointments will be," Navarro-Valls said.

John Paul also planned to send a thank-you note to the doctors and nurses who attended him, the spokesman said.

John Paul's hospitalization forced him to skip the Ash Wednesday ritual for the first time in his 26-year papacy.

Doctors at Gemelli never publicly discussed the pope's condition, but the Vatican press office issued its own medical bulletin every few days tersely describing his continued improvement.

Britain's Prince Charles to wed his lover in April

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prince Charles announced Thursday that he will marry his lover, Camilla Parker Bowles, putting an official seal on a romance kindled three decades ago, which Princess Diana blamed for the breakdown of her tempestuous marriage to the heir to the throne. The announcement ruled out the possibility that Parker Bowles would become queen.

The Prince of Wales and Parker Bowles will marry April 8 at Windsor Castle, said Clarence House, Charles' residence.

They will be married in a largely private civil ceremony at the palace, not in a Church of England service.

Prince William, 22, and Prince

Harry, 20, the sons of Prince

Charles and the late Princess

Diana, said they were "delighted"

at the news.

The decision on the type of ser-



Parker Bowles

vice reflects the fact that both are divorcees, and that Parker Bowles' former husband is still living. In general, the Church of England, the legally established faith

of the nation, disapproves of re-marriage of divorced people in church.

When Charles accedes to the throne, his wife will be known as the HRH (Her Royal Highness) Princess Consort. Charles' decision appeared to be a nod to public opinion, which has never warmed to Camilla.

Charles, 56, divorced from Diana in 1996, a year before she was killed in a Paris car crash. Camilla, 57, obtained her divorce from army officer Andrew Parker Bowles in 1995.



Commander Steve Malcolm of the HMS Scott displays a 3-dimensional model of the Indian Ocean seabed on Wednesday at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. Digital images taken by the British military ship show the rumpled seabed at the epicenter of the quake that caused the South Asia tsunami.

Seabed images show damage from tsunami

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEN
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The first images of the seabed that was rocked by the earth quake that triggered Asia's catastrophic tsunami revealed huge ruptures spanning several miles along the Indian Ocean's floor.

The United States, meanwhile, said it was preparing to more than double its pledge for tsunami relief to \$950 million.

The images of the seabed were from a British naval ship collecting data off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island that could be used to help governments develop a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean region.

"There are features which we would think are something like the Grand Canyon would look," Tim Henstock, a scientist aboard the HMS Scott, told BBC News.

The images show "slide scars" more than six miles wide resulting from the 9.0 magnitude quake on Dec. 26, the world's biggest in 40 years.

President Bush said he would

ask Congress for \$950 million — up from \$350 committed for tsunami relief so far — a pledge that would put the United States atop the list of donors to the disaster.

Australia has promised \$80 million, followed by Germany's \$660 million, the European Commission's \$624 million and Japan's \$540 million.

"We will use these resources to provide assistance and to work with the affected nations on rebuilding vital infrastructure that re-energizes economies and strengthens societies," Bush said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the gruesome task of retrieving the dead in Indonesia is unlikely to be finished by June as earlier expected as corpses continue to be found in the rubble, said Yrsa Grune from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Volunteers have been helping a government-led effort to collect and bury victims in Aceh.

Indonesian officials have said they expect the death toll to rise for weeks by an average of 500 a day.

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2003 Dodge Neon SX	Auto Power Windows Locks LOW MILES	\$11,900
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2001 Hyundai Tiburon	AC Power Windows Locks CD Alarm	\$6,900
2000 Chevrolet Cavalier	Auto AC Power 5 Speed Power Windows Low Miles	\$6,900
2000 Ford Ranger	434 Alloy Power Windows AC	\$7,900
2000 Chevrolet Tracker	434 Alloy Power Windows AC	\$7,900
1999 Ford Explorer	434 Alloy Power 5 Speed LOW MILES	\$8,900
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Detailing Bush's Social Security plan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is traveling this country, pushing his plan to add personal accounts to Social Security. But how would those accounts really work? To some extent, much like the 401(k) investments that many workers have. But Bush leaves out many details, including important questions about how far benefits would have to be cut to secure the program's long-term finances.

More comprehensive plans developed by members of Congress and by a commission Bush appointed give more details, offering a vision as to what a full program might look like.

Some questions and answers:

Q: Who is eligible to open the accounts?

A: Under the Bush plan, anyone under age 55 would be eligible.

Those age 55 and up would stay in the exist-

ing program and get benefits promised under current law.

Q: Will the accounts solve Social Security's financial problems?

A: No. The personal accounts do almost nothing to solve the basic problem Social Security faces: It will soon be paying more in annual benefits than it collects annually in payroll taxes. Benefit cuts or tax increases will be needed to make the system solvent long-term.

Q: Who would be affected by benefit cuts?

A: All those under 55 — whether or not they take personal accounts. Supporters hope that profits from the private accounts will partly make up the difference.

Q: How would the accounts work, and how would they differ from today's system?

A: Social Security today is a pay-as-you-go system, where workers and their employers each pay 6.2 percent of an employee's wages

(up to \$90,000 a year) into the Social Security trust fund.

The taxes pay for benefits to current retirees. Future retirees' benefits are expected to be paid for with taxes collected then.

Under the Bush plan, workers could divert two-thirds of their Social Security taxes into private accounts that could be invested in stocks and bonds to help fund their own retirement.

Contributions would initially be capped at \$1,000 per year but the cap would rise by \$100 a year. The rest of Social Security taxes would continue to pay for traditional benefit checks. When it came time to retire, one's retirement income would come from a combination of the new personal accounts and traditional Social Security benefits.

Workers also could forgo the private accounts and keep all their taxes in the traditional system, and therefore their government check would be larger.

Attack saves life

NAPLES, Fla. — A blow to the head with a beer bottle may have saved Sally Hampton's life.

While doctors were examining her after the barroom attack, they discovered a brain tumor that could have killed her.

The tumor was removed, and Hampton, 64, is fully recovered.

Hampton was attacked July 4 at a bar in Naples, a farming town in southwestern Florida. According to prosecutors, she put her hand on Fidel Trujillo's shoulder to lead him out of the place when the bartender wanted to close up. Trujillo bashed her with a bottle and kicked her in the head and body when she fell.

Amnesia hides identity

BOSTON — An amnesia victim who says his nickname is "Tee" but knows nothing else about his identity has uncovered few clues in the mystery a month after he suffered head trauma that apparently triggered his memory loss.

The man, who appears to be in his late teens, was found dazed in a dirty subway on a lady over me," the man told the Boston Herald in a voice tinged with an accent suggesting a childhood in the Caribbean.

"The last thing I remember is being thrown out of a car by three people. I woke up on the street and I was a lady over me," the man told the Boston Herald in a voice tinged with an accent suggesting a childhood in the Caribbean.

"I just want to have my memory back. I hope someone is looking for me," he said.

Pilot accused of threat

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A United Airlines pilot who also flew for the National Guard told a woman that he wanted to crash a plane into Wall Street because some people inside were using "easy money" there, court documents allege.

Robert Fenezi, 44, of San Diego, was arrested Wednesday by FBI agents with the Joint Terrorism Task Force of Western New York and charged with lying on a military application for a security clearance. He pleaded not guilty and was released on \$10,000 bail.

On an October application for top security clearance, Fenezi said he had been arrested and involved in civil court actions in the last seven years, Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Lynch said.

Officials later found he was arrested on two misdemeanor charges in San Diego, charges that were later dropped, and was involved in a civil court matter in 2000.

Ex-priest faces trial

BALTIMORE — Donte Stokes' link to the Rev. Maurice Blackwell began early. It was Blackwell who baptized him as a baby and later made him an altar boy.

But Stokes says his relationship with Blackwell changed. He alleges that years of sexual abuse culminated with rape when he was 17, prompting him to seek Blackwell out in 2002 with a .357 Magnum handgun.

Now Blackwell faces trial after being charged with four counts of sexual abuse. Stokes was arrested in 1989 and 1992. Jury selection was scheduled to begin Thursday.

From the Associated Press

Mosque allegedly funded terror fronts

Founder, ex-NBA star Olajuwon, says he was unaware of ties

By MATT KELLEY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon says his mosque's donations to groups the government later determined to be terrorist fronts were meant to help the poor, not sponsor terrorism.

A Houston mosque that Olajuwon established and supported gave more than \$80,000 to groups the government has labeled fronts for al-Qaida and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Olajuwon told the AP he would not have given money to the groups had he known of the alleged terrorist ties — some of which had been the subject of news reports before the contributions were made.

Olajuwon's mosque gave the money before the United States designated the groups as terrorist fronts.

There is no way you can go back in time," Olajuwon said in a recent telephone interview from Jordan, where he is studying Arabic. "After the fact, now they have the list of organizations that are banned by the government."

Hakeem Olajuwon

A Treasury Department spokeswoman, Molly Millerwise, declined to discuss Olajuwon's contributions. She said that "in many cases, donors are being unwittingly misled by the charities."

Federal law enforcement officials said they were not investigating Olajuwon, a 7-foot center born in Nigeria who played 17 seasons for the Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association before retiring in 2002.

Olajuwon, 42, who became a U.S. citizen in 1993, was known as "The Dream." He won the NBA's

Most Valuable Player award in 1994, when he led the Rockets to the first of back-to-back championships.

The Olajuwon-founded Islamic Da'Wa Center in Houston gave more than \$60,000 in 2000 and \$20,000 in 2002 to the Islamic African Relief Agency, the center's tax records show. The mosque gave more than \$1 million in donations during 2000 and about \$291,000 in 2002, the records show.

The government shut down the relief agency in October, saying it gave money and other support to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

All the donations came before the government designated the Holy Land Foundation and the Islamic African Relief Agency as terrorist fronts. Vipul Worah, an accountant for Olajuwon's charities, said U.S. authorities have never asked about the contributions.

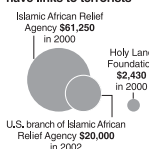
Olajuwon, who is married with four daughters, became a Muslim during his professional career and was known for playing in key games while observing dawn-to-dusk fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Associated Press writer Peter Fenton in Houston contributed to this report.

Contributions in question

Tax records show that a Houston mosque founded and funded by basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon gave more than \$80,000 to charities that the U.S. government later determined to be fronts for terrorist organizations. Olajuwon says he did not know of any links to terrorism when the donations were made.

Islamic Da'Wa Center contributions to charities the U.S. government says have links to terrorists



SOURCES: Tax returns for Islamic Da'Wa Center; Treasury Department

Study: Broken hearts really can be fatal

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As Valentine's Day approaches, scientists have confirmed the lament of countless love sonnets and romance novels: People really can die of a broken heart, and the researchers now think they know why.

A traumatic breakup, the death of a loved one, or even the shock of a surprise party can unleash a flood of stress hormones that can stun the heart, causing sudden, life-threatening heart spasms in otherwise healthy people, they reported Wednesday.

The phenomenon can trigger

what seems like a classic heart attack and can put victims at risk for potentially severe complications and even death, the researchers found. With proper care, however, doctors can mend the physical aspect of a "broken heart" and avoid long-term damage.

"When you think about people who have died of a 'broken heart,' there are probably several ways that can happen," said Jan Wittstein of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, whose findings appear in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. "A broken heart can kill you, and this may be one way."

No one knows how often it happens, but the researchers suspect it's more frequent than most doctors realize — primarily among older women — and is usually mistaken for a traditional heart attack.

Researchers have known that stress could trigger heart attacks in people already prone to them, and a syndrome resembling a heart attack in otherwise healthy people following acute emotional stress has been reported in Japan.

But very little was known about the phenomenon in this country, and no one had any idea how it happens.

The findings underscore the growing realization that there are fundamental physiological differences between men and women, including how they respond to stress.

"This is why we need to do more research involving women," said cardiologist Deborah Barbour, speaking on behalf of the American Heart Association. "We can't extrapolate a man's response to a woman."

It remains unclear why women would be more vulnerable, but it may have something to do with hormones or how their brains are wired to their hearts.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rain and gusty winds. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Saturday lows in the lower 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Saturday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with fog overnight. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Saturday lows in the upper teens.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with snow-showers. Highs in the mid 30s. Saturday lows in the lower to mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 50s. Saturday lows in the lower to mid 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with fog. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Saturday lows in the lower to mid teens.

Norway: Cloudy with isolated snow-showers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Saturday lows in the teens.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s. Saturday lows in the lower to mid 30s

AFRIC

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	77	63	Mogadishu	88	7
Dakar	73	64	Nairobi	82	5
Freetown	88	76	Rabat	66	4
Kinshasa	89	73	Trienli	58	

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI
Amsterdam	45	23	Manila	87
Bahrain	66	51	Mexico City	69
Beijing	36	21	Montreal	23
Beirut	54	43	Riyadh	71
Bermuda	66	54	Rio de Jan	86
Caracas	85	74	Seoul	30
Helsinki	28	17	Sofia	34
Hong Kong	65	59	Sydney	78
Lisbon	59	44	Tokyo	47

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

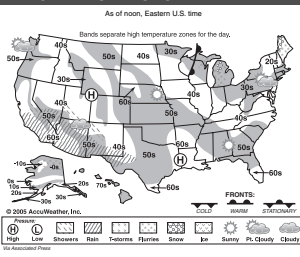
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MIDEAST

Map of the Middle East and surrounding regions showing the locations of 12 major cities and their corresponding flight numbers. The cities and flight numbers are:

- Baghdad 55/36
- Tehran 34/22
- Kuwait City 60/46
- Doha 63/43
- Dubai 70/53
- Aashgabad 33/19
- Zahedan 58/35
- Kabul 41/19
- Kandahar 58/39
- Islamabad 62/43
- New Delhi 75/54
- Karachi 77/51
- Bombay 89/71
- Hyderabad 90/64

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Justice sentenced

OH BOWLING GREEN — State Supreme Court Justice Alice Robie Resnick stood on the opposite side of the bench, pleading guilty to driving drunk on her way to Columbus Jan. 31.

In a municipal courtroom filled with media from across the state, Resnick, 65, was found guilty of drunken driving and driving outside marked lanes by Judge Mark Reddin.

He sentenced her to three days in jail or in an alcohol treatment program. Reddin also ordered her to pay a \$500 fine for the DUI and a \$100 fine for the marked-lane violation. He suspended her driver's license for six months and placed her on probation for two years.

Massive tree damaged

CA LODGEPOLE — Before a recent series of unfortunate events, the Washington Tree was one of the largest trees on Earth. The giant sequoia in Sequoia National Park was more than 254 feet high, with a base circumference exceeding 101 feet.

That put it right behind the Gen. Sherman Tree, which was almost 275 feet high and more than 102 feet in circumference, and the Gen. Grant Tree, which stood more than 268 feet with a circumference exceeding 107 feet.

But the Washington Tree lost its crown, or top canopy, in a wildfire 16 months ago. Then, heavy storms whittled the tree down further this winter, finally leaving it a sparsely foliated fang of wood only 115 feet high.

It's still too early to tell whether the most recent damage has sealed the tree's fate, said Alexandra Picavet, a ranger with the park.

"There's still a little foliage on it," she said. "Our scientists can't really make a full evaluation of its condition, because it's about a mile from the nearest road, and there's so much snow on the ground. We'll have a better sense of how it's doing when the snow melts."

Psychedelic chocolate

TX AMARILLO — Authorities doubt Cupid had any part in the 9 pounds of heart-shaped candies discovered during a traffic stop.

The candies, found Monday by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers, tested positive for psilocybin, a psychedelic drug extracted from a mushroom of the same name.

The estimated value of the faux Valentine's Day chocolate was more than \$408,000, DPS officials said in a news release.

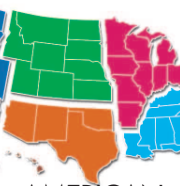
The troopers found the candy in a plastic bag after stopping a San Francisco man's 2005 Toyota Corolla on Interstate 40 about three miles west of Amarillo.

Craig Allen Moreland, 30, was arrested and taken to the Potter County Detention Center on drug charges, the release said.

Information from the Amarillo Globe-News, <http://www.amarillo.com>

Firefighters disciplined

FL TAMPA — Five firefighters were being disciplined for being involved in a photo shoot in-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

volving two women posing nude on a fire engine inside a station.

Fire Capt. Al Suarez, 44, was fired after being accused of organizing the photo shoot and trying to cover it up by asking witnesses to lie or not cooperate. Four other firefighters were suspended without pay.

The women began the photo shoot partially clothed, but they were soon wearing only high heels. Firefighters taped garbage bags over the windows, the investigation found.

Snapsots of the two women, who were strippers at a Tampa nude club, have appeared on Internet Web sites. After a six-week investigation, the five accused men allegedly confessed.

Fire Chief Dennis Jones said he was "embarrassed" by the incident. "I was shocked. I was appalled," he said. "I hope people won't judge the entire department by these four or five individuals."

Senator hitches a ride

NE OMAHA — Sen. Ben Nelson had to hitch a ride with a stranger to his own news conference after accompanying President Bush on a last-minute ride to the airport.

The Democratic senator said he did not know his own staff had sent a car for him on Friday to Eppley Airfield, where he accompanied Bush in the presidential limo.

So Nelson accepted a ride with White House staffers back to the



Ice claims vehicle
Diver Mike Nalen breaks up the ice around a hole made by a fisherman's vehicle, which broke through the ice and sank to the bottom of Lake Nubanusit in Hancock, N.H. The tracks from the vehicle's path can be seen in the background.

Qwest Center, where Bush had spoken about Social Security. From there, he was stranded and late for his news conference to offer reaction to Bush's plan. Nelson said he could not reach his own staffers, who were waiting for him 50 blocks away.

Dick Preston saw Nelson outside the complex, where he was going to the annual home and garden show.

"It was obvious he needed a ride," Preston said. "I told him I had this old Buick and it was ready to go."

Speed limit dropping

TN CHATTANOOGA — Transportation Commissioner Jerry Nicely said the state will reduce interstate speed limits within Hamilton County to 55 mph for trucks and 65 mph for cars, effective this summer. The move is aimed at reducing air pollution in the Chattanooga urban area. Similar requests are pending from Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville.

Hospital to be built

OK TULSA — Construction will begin in September on a 104-bed, five-story children's hospital. The \$56 million hospital is to be completed in spring 2007. It will include space for medical and surgical procedures and pediatric intensive care services. The pediatric rooms will be larger and have space for families to stay overnight, with access to showers, coffee makers, refrigerators and microwaves.

False mudslide warning

WA ORTING — Some schools evacuated and students headed for high ground when sirens went off warning of mudslides down the Puyallup River valley off Mount Rainier. It was a false alarm of the labor warning system. Pierce County emergency officials are trying to determine what triggered the alarm.

No snow, no race

NH LACONIA — This weekend's World Championship Sled Dog Derby has been canceled for lack of snow — notwithstanding the storm in the forecast.

The Lakes Region Sled Dog Club said Tuesday the 66th derby, scheduled for Friday through Sunday, was canceled because of a long stretch of balmy temperatures and a lack of snow.

Club officials Jim Lyman and Russ Armstrong said a snowstorm forecast for Thursday into Friday would come too late to shape an acceptable course.

"We have world-class drivers here and we have to put out a world-class trail," said Lyman, who said canceling the race gives competitors time to enter other races in the Northeast that might have better conditions.

Lyman said unseasonably warm weather has led to the cancellation of races this winter even in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The city's Winterfest event on Saturday will be held regardless, said Deb Oettinger, executive director of Laconia Main Street.

Events include a wood-carving exhibition, a yellow-snow eating contest and frozen turkey bowling.



Brother, the protector

Justice Gates, 7, left, puts his arm around his brother, Ajays, 6, as they take a shortcut through Glenwood Cemetery in Tupelo, Miss. The boys always walk home together from school.



Long-necked love
Gardens in Fresno, Calif.

Babu nuzzles her newborn baby giraffe in their barn at the Chaffee Zoological Gardens in Fresno, Calif.



Who's up for some Duck, Duck, Goose?

A row of geese waddle along the sidewalk of West Main Street in Bloomsburg, Pa. The gaggle crossed West Main twice, stopping traffic, before heading to Barton Street.



Remembering lost pets

Michelle Burton, organizer of a memorial service for 79 pet animals who died in a Jan. 24 fire that destroyed the Chippewa County Humane Association shelter, lights candles at Golden Funeral Home in Eau Claire, Wis.



Spirit head

Mindy Olsson, 12, wears flags in her hair as she waits by the fence at the Bismarck, N.D., airport, hoping to take a picture of the plane carrying her uncle and other members of the North Dakota National Guard 141st Engineer Combat Battalion. The 141st returned from deployment in Iraq.



Nice ride for a clown

Joan "Jo-Jo" Patty memorizes the words to "A Bushel and a Peck," on her way to deliver a balloon-a-gram in Lake Placid, Fla. Jo-Jo and fellow clowns from Toby the Clown Foundation Inc. in Lake Placid deliver balloon-a-grams as part of a new clown-school fund-raising program.

Lawyer suing court

CA SAN FRANCISCO — As the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to decide the constitutionality of displaying the Ten Commandments on government property, a lawyer has sued the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for apparently including an image of the commandments in its official seal.

Ryan Donlon spotted an image of what he believes are the commandments—tablets with 10 indecipherable lines—emblazoned on the seal on the certificate he received in the mail last June when he was admitted to practice law before the court.

In his suit, Donlon said the inclusion of the Ten Commandments on the seal, which is also displayed on other 9th Circuit documents and in court buildings, "has no secular purpose" and violates his right not to be subjected to government endorsement of religion. He seeks a court ban on the seal.

Tune too similar

WI MADISON — Imitation might be a form of flattery, but a little resemblance might be too much of a good thing.

The state tourism agency may scrap the jingle composed for its new ad campaign because it sounds too much like a 1995 song by a British group.

Composer John Tanner has acknowledged similarities, which he said were unintentional, and offered to write new music, says Jim Holperin, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

Tanner was paid about \$22,000 to compose original music for the \$2.2 million campaign with a slogan of "Wisconsin—Life's So Good."

The Milwaukee-based musician agreed Monday his music closely resembled the tune "Alright" by Supergrass—a band some say is derivative itself of earlier groups all the way back to the Rolling Stones.

"It turns out it was way, way—even I think now, listening to them side by side—too close to Supergrass," Tanner told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The state has not been contacted by any representative of Supergrass, said Jerry Huffman of the tourism department.

Stamping out love

TX VALENTINE — Love is getting stamped out in this tiny West Texas town.

Valentine's Day cards and letters have been coming to the town's adobe-style post office for weeks as romantics from around the world send messages to get stamped with the distinctive postmark of Valentine, Texas.

With 7,000 cards already behind them Monday, Postmaster Maria Elena Carrasco and her part-time assistant Leslie Williams were greeted with a dozen brimming baskets of cards and letters left by the daily delivery truck that traveled 150 miles from El Paso.

They stamped each piece by hand, and by nightfall, another truck making the return trip picked up the cards and letters for routing to cities coast to coast, border to border. By Carrasco's count, they've also gone to 28 countries.

"It reinforces my belief that there is a lot of love and a lot of people do believe in God because that's

what love is," said Carrasco, who has run the post office since 1990.

No change in park air

TN GATLINBURG — An analysis of air quality data in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park shows pollution isn't getting worse. However, the 10 years of data don't indicate a recovery, said Jim Renfro, a park air quality specialist. He said the Smokies still have severe ozone and acid rain concerns.

Restaurant charged

NH WAKEFIELD — The Pice River Steak House was charged with negligence in two felony indictments for serving drinks to two men who killed themselves and four others in a 100-mph crash a short time later. Casey Davis, 24, and Aaron Parent, 26, left the restaurant with Davis driving and collided head-on with a minivan in Sept. 2001.

Very valuable find

WI ROTHSCCHILD — Jon Jazdzewski made a valuable discovery while driving out of town for business.

Jazdzewski, 52, an employee of Wausau Supply, was leaving town around 4 a.m. on Jan. 28 when he spotted something on the road near the Rothschild Village Hall.

"I knew it was a money bag, and I picked it up," said Jazdzewski, of Kronsweyer.

More than \$850,000 in cash and checks was inside the locked bag, according to city officials.

A police officer had the bag on the trunk of a squad car and then was called to an emergency, Jazdzewski said. The bag apparently slid off the back of the car when the officer pulled away.

"Someone that found the bag was very honest. We are planning on doing something for him," Rothschild Police Chief Bill Schremp said.

Bus driver charged

ID NAMPA — A school bus driver was charged with drug possession and injuring the children on her bus after witnesses said she was driving erratically on her morning route. Theresa Mahurin, 33, was arraigned Tuesday following her arrest a day earlier. Police said she failed sobriety tests and officers found what appeared to be methamphetamine in her purse.

Officials said the children were not physically injured but state law allows the charge of injury to a child if an adult drives child passengers while intoxicated.

Both police and the Brown Bus Co. said they received calls from people who saw Mahurin taking turns too abruptly or too slowly, and not using the bus lights properly.

Schools to get smaller

PA PHILADELPHIA — Officials announced that Philadelphia's public high schools are going to get smaller so they can serve students better. District chief Paul Vallas says the Philadelphia School District should have 66 high schools by 2008, up from 38 in 2002. More than half of the schools will have 400 students or fewer.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the connection of AFRTS's Web site at <http://myafm.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00 Stanley Show Hosts: Tricia Sages-Simone Cat	Movie: "Crash Landing" (1999, Drama) A Marine, Nick Lynn	Dr. Phil	Jacquelyn	Nightline	College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest (Taped)	9:30-Missing: Easy Entertaining-Chanello	Jacquelyn
9:30 Arthur D.W. avoids a fire drill	Aycox, Mimi Kuzly.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Decorating Cents	Headline News
10:00 Reading Rainbow (E)	(1:45) Movie: "The Rock" (1996, Adventure) Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris	(3:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O.C. The Way We Were	The O'Reilly Factor	The King of Queens	Headline News
10:30 Sages-Simone Cat	(1:45) Movie: "The Rock" (1996, Adventure) Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris	(1:45) General Hospital	The O.C. The Way We Were	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Headline News
11:00 Stanley	Alcatraz Island terrorists trapped to gas San Francisco.	(1:45) General Hospital	Meet My Kids: The Manasco	PrimeTime Thursday	College Basketball Gonzaga at Pepperdine (Taped)	That '90s Show	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Judge Judy	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
14:00 Blue's Clues	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
15:30 Full House	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
16:00 "All Fired Up!" (E)	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
16:30 Doug "Doug's in the Middle"	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
17:00 The Wild Thornberrys	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
18:00 The Fairly OddParents	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
19:00 All Grown Up	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
19:30 Dave the Barbarian	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
20:00 Danny Phantom	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
20:30 Drake & Josh "Little Diva"	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
21:00 That's So Raven	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
21:30 Phil of the Future	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
22:00 Switched!	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
22:30 Radio Free Roscoe	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
23:00 The Cosby Show	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News
23:30 Home Improvement	Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama) Holly Hunter, mute woman trapped in a Frank-Isaac marriage takes a lover.	Headline News	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends	Charm'd "Sight Unseen"	Griffins "Jamaic' Up"	Headline News

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2005

AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
00:00 Aah! Real Monsters	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
00:30 Rocky Power	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
1:00 The Fairly OddParents	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
1:30 Rugrats	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
2:00 All Grown Up	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
2:30 Dave the Barbarian	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
3:00 Danny Phantom	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
3:30 Drake & Josh "Little Diva"	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
4:00 That's So Raven	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
4:30 Phil of the Future	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
5:00 Sesame Street (E)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
6:00 Blue's Clues	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
7:00 Planet's Funniest Animals	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
7:30 Amazing Animal Videos	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
8:00 Lilo & Stitch "Yoo"	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
8:30 Team Spectrum (E)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
9:00 Static Shock "Trouble"	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
9:30 Winnie Cub (E)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
10:00 Teen Titans "Fractured"	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
10:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
11:00 Dragonball GT	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
11:30 Justice League	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
12:00 Teen Kids News (E)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
12:30 Cyberchase "Castellano"	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
13:00 Trading Space: Boyz n the Hood	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
13:30 Scout's Solist: Live in Philly	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
14:00 Planet's Funniest Animals	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
14:30 Wild America	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
15:00 The Most Extreme "Daredevil"	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
15:30 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
16:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
16:30 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
17:00 Doug (E)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
18:00 The Fairly OddParents	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
19:00 Rugrats	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
19:30 Movie "The Pool Point" (2001)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
20:00 Movie "The Pool Point" (2001)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
20:30 Movie "The Pool Point" (2001)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
21:00 Movie "The Pool Point" (2001)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
21:30 Movie "The Pool Point" (2001)	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
22:00 American Idol	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
22:30 American Idol	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
23:00 American Idol	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
23:30 American Idol	(11:30) Movie: "The Piano" (1993, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up

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Ice plays it nice

Former gangsta rapper reaches out to youngest fans with new movie

BY BETSY PICKLE

Scripps Howard News Service

In his early days with N.W.A. and as a solo rap artist, Ice Cube recorded controversial songs that most adults felt were inappropriate for younger members of his fan base. He's making amends for that now in his movie career with "Are We There Yet?"

"This is an attempt to cater to my youngest fans," says Cube. "I've got kids that are fans of the 'Friday' movies and the 'Barbershop' movies, which are R-rated and PG-13, and those aren't geared for them."

"Here's something that's strictly geared for the kids — not only kids but really the whole family. We turned it from a 'k' movie — that was the concept — to a movie that the whole family could enjoy because it's not so corny that the parents fall asleep."

A father of four, 35-year-old Cube wasn't worried about providing entertainment for his own children, who have seen some of his R-rated movies.

"I've got the coolest kids," he says of his three sons and daughter. "I don't really hide too much from 'em. I just kinda gauge what age they're at and figure out how

to explain it to 'em and make sure they understand it."

In his new film, Cube plays Nick, a bachelor who hates kids but falls for a divorcee (Nie Long) with a daughter (Aleiasha Allen) and son (Philip Daniel Bolden). He sets out with the youngsters on a 300-mile road trip to unite them with their mom on New Year's Eve.

"Nick has a lot more tolerance than I have," he says. "That's not something you expect to hear from a father."

"That's why I don't have to have that much tolerance, 'cause I am a father," Cube says by phone during a publicity stop in Atlanta.

"They already know what time it is with me. I'm fair, but I'm firm."

Road trips weren't a big part of childhood for Cube, who grew up in South Central Los Angeles with three older siblings, a brother and two sisters. But occasionally his parents would drive them to Oakland or Las Vegas.



KEVIN CLARK/Washington Post

The new kid-friendly movie "Are We There Yet?" marks a switch from more adult-oriented fare for rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube. The success of his PG-13 rated "Barbershop" movies convinced him to try lighter fare for the whole family.

Cube, born O'Shea Jackson, was hooked on movies early and spent weekends as a kid watching everything from Bruce Lee's swan song, "Game of Death," to the musical "Grease." He began writing raps in high school and had formed N.W.A. with Eazy-E and Dr. Dre before heading to Arizona in 1987 to attend the Phoenix Institute of Technology.

Returning to Los Angeles after earning a one-year degree, he re-joined N.W.A. for the breakthrough album "Straight Outta Compton."

He left the group over conflicts with management in 1989 and began his solo career with "AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted."

Movieweeks first saw him act in 1991's "Boyz n the Hood." He spent most of the 1990s making a mix of action films and dark dramas — "Trespass," "The Glass Shield," "Healing Learning" and

"Three Kings" among them — while continuing to record and guide the careers of other rap artists.

After co-writing and starring in the 1995 comedy "Friday" and writing, directing and acting in 1998's "The Player's Club," Cube had proved he was serious about being a filmmaker. His production company, Cube Vision, has produced the two "Friday" sequels, the "Barbershop" films, "All About the Benjamins," the upcoming "Beauty Shop" and "Are We There Yet?"

But Cube wasn't looking to do a family film.

"When we signed our deal with Revolution (Studios), they had a project that Adam Sandler was supposed to do but couldn't do," he recalls. "They told me to look at it and see if my company would acquire it and tailor-make the movie for me. So I looked at it, I read it and I said, 'OK, I could see where this can go.'"

"It was like the perfect timing, too, because we had just come off the success of 'Barbershop 1' and 'Barbershop 2,' which are PG-13 movies, and they did real well for us, so we felt the audience was ready for something like this."

Cube admits he felt constrained in a PG movie.

"I'm not trying to turn into Eddie Murphy, you know?" he says.

"I don't want to just do kids' movies the rest of my career. I'm a young man, so I'm gonna do a wide range of things."

While shooting "Are We There Yet?," Cube was recruited to star in the sequel to "XXX," "XXX: State of the Union," taking over the franchise started by Vin Diesel.

"For me, it's nothing but career moves, stepping stones to get to where I want to be in Hollywood," he says. His goal is "to be the biggest and the best."

Salsa star in hot water

Venezuelan salsa star Oscar D'Leon was arrested and jailed when he tried to leave Colombia after failing to perform at a scheduled concert, officials said.

D'Leon, known as the "Devil of Salsa," was detained Monday at the airport in Barranquilla, 435 miles north of Bogota, as he prepared to return to Venezuela, police said.

Concert organizers had filed a complaint against D'Leon, saying his failure to appear at the concert Friday caused a disturbance as disappointed fans destroyed chairs and other objects. It is illegal in Colombia for anyone with legal proceedings against him or her to leave the country.

D'Leon, who was on the marquee to play in Barranquilla's carnival celebrations, told local Caracol radio Tuesday he backed out because organizers refused to pay an advance fee. But concert organizer Gregorio Rico said an advance payment was made to the salsa star.

Recipes you'd kill to have

James Gandolfini has a recipe for osso buco he's eager to share. And Edie Falco can't wait for you to try her fettuccine alfre-

do. Otherwise, the "Sopranos" stars suggest you "Shut Up and Eat!" — the title of a cookbook coming this fall from Berkley Publishing Group.

Numerous other Italian-Americans contributed to the cookbook, including Lorraine Bracco, Chazz Palminteri and

Danny Aiello, who wrote the foreword. The featured writer is another "Sopranos" performer, Tony Lip, whose many films include "Goodfellas" and "Donnie Brasco."

"When Tony Lip starts writing about Italian food, growing up in the Bronx and his life in the movies, you can't stop reading," Denise Silver-

tro, Berkley's executive editor, said Tuesday.

"All of the aromas of the meals he describes and the memories he shares come wafting off the page like you're sitting in his dining room listening to him talk. His friends' recipes and colorful tales have the same effect."

Phillips and wife to divorce

The wife of actor Lou Diamond Phillips has filed for divorce, according to court papers.

Phillips, 42, and Kelly Phillips were married in April 1994 and separated Jan. 27, according to a petition filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Kelly Phillips is seeking joint legal custody of the couple's three daughters, but requesting they live with her. The two have 7-year-old twins and a 5-year-old.

Phillips has starred in dozens of TV shows and films, including "La Bamba," "Stand and Deliver" and "Young Guns."

Van Gogh to stay with Taylor

A Los Angeles judge dismissed a lawsuit by four descendants of a German woman who had sought to recover a valuable Vincent van Gogh painting from actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Taylor failed to review the ownership history of "View of the Asylum of Saint-Remy" before acquiring it more than 40 years ago, the descendants of the late Margaret Mauthner claimed in a lawsuit last July.

The family asked for restitution and the



Lou Diamond Phillips and Kelly Phillips

painting, which has been appraised between \$10 million and \$15 million, containing a sales brochure had warned it was likely confiscated by the Nazis.

In a Feb. 2 order, U.S. District Judge Gary Klausner ruled that a state law only permitted the plaintiffs to sue in the three years after property was taken. Another state law that froze the statute of limitations until the property was located didn't apply, the judge said.

In a statement issued after her lawsuit was filed, Taylor said she hadn't seen information suggesting the painting had been in Nazi possession.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Muslims' reaction 'paranoid'

"Mattis' words upset Islamic group" (article, Feb. 5, Europe edition); "Islamic group upset over Mattis remarks" (Middle East, the outrage on the part of the Council on American-Islamic Relations over comments made by Marine Lt. Gen. James Mattis, is indicative of why Muslims are misunderstood in the Western world.

I'll be the first to admit that the general erroneously failed to "engage Britain before starting world," an often-unforgivable offense in modern politically correct America, but his comments were directed at a group of female-abusing thugs who used to control Afghanistan.

Apparently in the eyes of CAIR, the fact that these thugs also paid lip service to the religion Islam (they certainly could not have been true practitioners and behave as they did) confers some kind of immunity to them.

Islamic law prescribes the death penalty for a disturbingly large variety of offenses. Shouldn't that law apply to Muslims as well?

As long as supposedly responsible representatives of Islam continue to react in a paranoid fashion to the slightest criticism of their members, and as long as they continue to either ignore, defend or subsidize the terrorist actions of so-called Muslims, they will have trouble being taken seriously. They pontificate about the value of human life.

Tolerance is a two-way street. True practitioners of the religion followed by the

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prophet Muhammad should clean their own house before criticizing others.

Paul G. Liebeck
Bamberg, Germany

A mountain out of a molehill

First and foremost, I fully support the U.S. doctrine of free speech, enshrined in the First Amendment, for all: laymen and the military. I support Lt. Gen. James Mattis' right to speak his mind on any matter, except that which could place others at risk, such as other members of the military on duty in various parts of the Muslim world elsewhere.

KBR needs some healthy competition

BY G. JEFFERSON PRICE III

I barely noticed in the commotion surrounding President Bush's State of the Union speech last week was a story prominently displayed in one of the president's favorite newspapers, The Wall Street Journal.

While Bush was preparing to proclaim the wonders of a "free" Iraq, the story revealed there's no free lunch in Iraq. Specifically, the Journal reported, KBR, the unit of Dick Cheney's alma mater, Halliburton, that has the contract to feed, house and bathe U.S. troops in Iraq, has come in with a \$10 billion estimate for the coming year.

Ten billion dollars is a lot of money. It works out to about \$67,000 a year per man and woman in the military being served by KBR, assuming we keep 150,000 troops in Iraq, which we won't. Put another way, it's \$182,64 a day. Ten billion dollars also is at least \$4 billion more than the Pentagon has budgeted for the services provided by KBR.

The gap could be as much as \$7.4 billion. The Journal story appeared about the same time as an audit of Iraq reconstruction funds found that nearly \$9 billion was distributed with "less than adequate controls" by the former Coalition Provisional

Authority headed by Paul Bremer. Read that, no one's sure where all the money went.

One thing's for sure, it didn't go to Iraqi contractors, because they were not included in the sweetheart deals like the ones given to Halliburton and KBR.

Before going any further, I should say that I believe our troops in Iraq and elsewhere should be fed as generously and housed as comfortably as possible. The troops face enough danger as it is without making them venture into harm's way on an empty stomach or without enough sleep.

But an opportunity exists to get them some really good food and to send some business to Iraqi contractors probably at a cost far less than what KBR is charging. Here's a proposal that actually might have a collateral advantage because people who eat the same food tend to get along better than people who don't.

In the eight years I spent as a correspondent in the Middle East, I acquired a passion for Middle Eastern food. The Lebanese are the best at making it, but certainly the Iraqis know how to make it, too.

There is nothing like a Middle Eastern mezze, a feast that features all sorts of delicacies such as hummus, baba ghanoush, gliori-

I understand the general's candid and outspoken statements were given within a certain context, relating to his military experience in Afghanistan and Iraq. It appears to me that he was too blunt and bombastic under the circumstances and, as such, displayed no appreciation for the religious and cultural sensitivity in the matter of shooting other people, however despicable the latter may be. I, at times, have felt like doing to the Taliban what the general articulated, by virtue of the atrocities committed against civilians.

At the same time, I think certain Muslim advocacy groups are making a mountain out of the general's molehill comments. Where were they when the ethnic Hagees were slaughtering each other, including women and children, without rhyme or reason?

I also think the U.S. military establishment has failed in its response to manage the general's unshamed bravado. The Marine hierarchy should tell Mattis that his free-speech privilege can degenerate into a very nasty problem for the already-damaged image of the U.S. military abroad. And the "apology" issued by the Marine Corps commandant, Gen. Mike Hagege, was feeble and inadequate and appeared more an endorsement than a reprimand. This compounds the hurt caused by Mattis' original comments.

I think everyone should stop shouting and bring this unfortunate incident to an agreeable conclusion: Let's not romanticize killing other people and let's stop pointing fingers. Hey, can we get along?

M. Kazim Yusuf
Washington

ous salads, pickled little things, olives, stuffed grape leaves, great chunks of lamb marinated and served on beds of steaming rice, or shish taouk, spicy grilled chicken served with a hearty garlic sauce.

I don't know what KBR is serving in Iraq, but if it's anything like the U.S. Marines in Lebanon were getting, I'd bet a great number of our soldiers at the front would love a good mezze, all the more if it's washed down with some good Arab, the anise and grape seed drink favored by people of the Middle East.

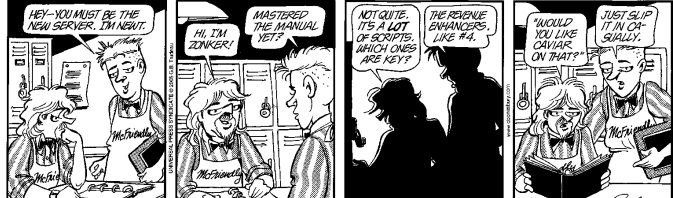
The collateral advantage of this idea would be that thousands of Iraqis could be employed in the preparation of food for U.S. troops. If they need some Lebanese to help them, they can fetch them across the Syrian border. Moreover, these food preparers would bring their goods from Iraqi farmers and herders. A few billion dollars' worth of commerce thrown to them could only advance cordiality and friendship. ...

Security would be a concern, of course. We don't want our troops to be fed by insurgent food preparers. Someone would have to taste the food before it was served. Let that one be a no-bid contract.

G. Jefferson Price III is former editor of The (Baltimore) Sun's Perspective section, in which this column first appeared.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



2-11

Garry Trudeau

OPINION

New Iraq gives women something to cling to

Transcending a vast and bitter ocean of cultural differences, the daughter who lost a father embraced the mother who lost a son.

As the crying women went to part, the dog tag of Marine Sgt. Byron Norwood wouldn't let them. It caught in their clothing, as if some greater power wanted the moment to linger and permeate our nation's war-weary soul.

A Hollywood director couldn't have staged a more inspirational and, paradoxically, heartbreaking symbol of the blood two nations have spilled in freedom's name. The hug received the longest standing ovation at President Bush's State of the Union address.

It stands as a good omen for Iraq's potential to emerge from U.S. occupation into a self-defining democracy in which women not only vote but also can lead and participate in every aspect of that nation's civic life. In a country like Iraq — wracked by decades of

totalitarian rule — the recent elections to pick members of the Transitional National Assembly signal a powerful turning point.

Bush noted that Safia Taleb al-Suhail, the leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, having suffered the assassination of her fiancé by Saddam Hussein's sons 11 years ago, had now proudly voted in the elections to pick assembly members who will draft the new constitution. Janet Norwood, who sat behind the Iraqi woman, paid a heavy price to make that election possible. Her son was killed Nov. 13, fighting insurgents in Sunni-dominated Fallujah.

No one understands better the tyranny of the "majority" than women everywhere. It is a shared history, one that denied women the right to vote in America until 1920 and still blocks women from that basic right in "progressive" countries such as Kuwait, where women doctors save lives but can't fully participate in choosing their leaders.

How ever we may feel about the Bush administration's botched-up reasons for going to war in Iraq, there should be unanimity among women of all creeds in supporting elections there. Because it is Iraq's women who not only stand to gain the most, but they may well be the

last, best hope the world has for Iraq to become a transparent democracy, one that respects the different ethnic groups and religious beliefs that Iraq's diverse populations espouse. As Iraq goes, so will much of the Middle East.

This wouldn't be the first time that Iraq has granted equal rights for women despite religious objections to those who want Islamic Law, or Sharia, to reign supreme in civic life. In 1959, Iraq decreed equal inheritance rights for men and women, for instance — a law Saddam's Baath Party abolished in 1963. Sunnis got all the privileges under Saddam, and Shiites, who are the majority, suffered his wrath, as did the Kurds in northern Iraq.

The Fedayeen Saddam, the paramilitary group run by Saddam's sadistic son Uday, beheaded more than 200 Iraqi women. (May he rest in hell.) More than 4,000 women, according to the United Nations, were killed, many stoned to death, for "tarnishing family honor."

When the U.S.-appointed Governing Council in Iraq was negotiating last year the conditions for holding elections for a transitional government, the Shiite majority moved to have Sharia govern personal life and family law. No surprise — the council was entirely



Janet Norwood, right, hugs Safia Taleb al-Suhail during the State of the Union address Feb. 2 in Washington. Both women lost loved ones in Iraq.

male. Resolution 137 would have denied women basic civil rights. It was a defining moment for Iraqi women.

H.E. Neseeren Bervari, minister of municipalities and public works and one of only six women among 30 Cabinet posts in Iraq's interim government, calls the resolution "a blessing in disguise." Its passage motivated Iraqi women to organize and demonstrate and successfully represent themselves," she noted last year during a U.S. visit.

Women came together — Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians, Assyrians, Turkmen — to have the

council retract Resolution 137 and then pushed for women to get seats in the transitional government.

Some men walked out in disgust, but the women prevailed. The council set a goal (not a quota) of having women elected to at least 25 percent of the seats in the transitional government. We'll know soon if the goal was met, but hopeful Iraqi women certainly had their say on Election Day.

Safia Taleb al-Suhail and Janet Norwood's embrace was a bitter-sweet reminder that freedom's best friend everywhere is an ever-hopeful heart.

Myriam Marquez is an editorial page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Bush budget reflects a fighting force in transition

President Bush has presented what is barring shooting wars with Iran, Syria or North Korea — almost certainly will be the largest defense budget of his presidency. It calls for spending \$419 billion, a 4.8 percent increase over last year's 41 percent more than his first budget proposal in 2001.

The budget doesn't include the costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be covered in an \$80 billion supplemental appropriation later this year.

When the supplemental is added to the president's budget, total defense spending, in inflation-adjusted dollars, will be about 15 percent higher than the average for defense spending during the Cold War, said Steven Kosiak, an analyst for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Congress almost certainly will approve both the budget request and the supplemental this year without much alteration, Kosiak said. But congressional attitudes will change in the years to come if President Bush is reasonably successful in capping domestic spending, and/or concern about budget deficits rises. Almost all the budget cuts made in the late 1980s and early 1990s were made in defense, he noted.

Defense spending is higher now in substantial part because of cuts made during the Clinton administration. Pentagon leaders are trying not only to fight a war, but to recoup spending on modern weapons deferred during the Clinton years.

Military leaders customarily make unrealistic spending plans, assuming, against all evidence, that they'll get well in the out years. With congressional and public attitudes like-

ly soon to turn sharply south, bitter choices need to be made.

Retired Marine Col. Robert Work, now a colleague of Kosiak's at CSBA, said this year's is a "holding budget." It postpones all the hard decisions on procurement to the latter part of the future year defense plan. We won't know what they'll be until after the QDR."

The Quadrennial Defense Review is an examination of defense strategy that occurs in the first year of a presidential term. Normally, the military services hold most of the cards in these reviews, because the defense secretary and his aides customarily are new at their jobs, so they defer to what the services say they need, said Work, who was an aide to the secretary of the Navy during the last QDR.

But this year, he said, a "perfect storm" is brewing. Donald Rumsfeld has been the chief of a QDR before, as has most of his management team. And the war on terror has revealed a quite different enemy from

the one the military was planning to fight. From the end of the Cold War until the insurgency in Iraq, military planning has focused on being able to fight two regional conventional conflicts at the same time. The military planned to smash the enemy quickly — chiefly through air power — and then go home.

But the insurgency in Iraq shows there are no quick exits in the war on terror, and today's enemies are unwilling to concentrate in places and ways that make them easy to smash. Rumsfeld wants to reorient defense planning and force structure on the assumptions that an attack on the U.S. homeland — possibly with nuclear weapons — is the central threat, and that the global war on terror is not going to end any time soon.

There are powerful hints of this reorientation in this year's budget. It contains \$9.5 billion for items pertaining to homeland security, items that didn't appear in the defense budget at all before Sept. 11.

Special Operations Command — which

contains commandos from the Army, Navy and Air Force — will grow by 200 civilians and 1,200 military personnel.

The Army and Marine Corps are adding combat units, while the Navy and Air Force are shedding some sailors and airmen.

Spending for unmanned systems such as the Predator drone and "transitional" weapons such as the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship and the Army's Future Combat System received increases, while traditional Navy shipbuilding and Air Force aircraft procurement took major hits.

These hits were taken while the defense budget was growing substantially. There will be more and deeper cuts when defense budgets stabilize, or go down. The Pentagon is about to be transformed into a slaughterhouse for sacred cows. The bleating will be heard to high heaven.

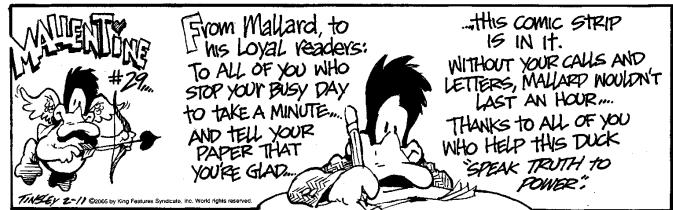
Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Jack Kelly



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

The moon enters Aries this morning, putting a zap and a zing behind the day's events. Ambition is on the rise, as we head into the weekend hoping to accomplish something more than a little rest and relaxation. Socializing that also serves a business purpose will be especially appealing now that Mars is transiting through Capricorn.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
(February 11). Reconciliation rules in the coming year. Love blooms anew when an old flame re-ignites in the next 10 weeks. If you desire, a reunion is possible. In May, a client you thought you'd lost comes back with an offer to consider. By July, a new perspective regarding a recurring issue could lead you to a solution once and for all. Love signs are Libra and Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A haring energy surrounds your romantic relationship, soothing your frazzled nerves while firing up the libido. Reach a compromise with regard to what to do for fun. True victory is when both sides feel they've won.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You strike a fair balance between work and play as you move through your day. Keep your goals at the forefront of your mind. Success is achieved through perseverance, scholarly pursuit and basic decency.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A newly emerging relationship is destined to be deeper and more fulfilling than previous engagements. If tension arises with a long-term sweetheart, know that you will work out any problems. All is well in your world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Nothing says "home sweet home" like soup from scratch, a soak in the tub, and the company of those you love. You can have all of that as a go-with-the-flow vibe sweeps you blissfully along. No worries.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People open up to you easily, considering their innermost fears. And why not?

You're a great listener! A new person in the life demands that you pay attention to details. Your efforts will be rewarded tenfold.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're notoriously good at saving money for a rainy day, but sometimes you've got to cut loose and spend some dough so that more of it will come back to you. Consider it a karmic law of abundance. Happy shopping.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Feel the light slowly moving toward equilibrium. Your mood should be brightening as the days grow longer. Nevertheless, it's only natural for you to want to hibernate during winter. Friends understand why you haven't been around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't know if you're coming or going? Try to think like a drop of water. Whether it's frozen solid as ice, floating on air as steam or in its natural liquid form, water is infinitely adaptable. Change is good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One of the most athletic of the signs, you like to work up a good sweat. Why not organize a group sporting event while the stars favor friendship? Ice skating or hockey can be great winter fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As Mick Jagger says, "You can't always get what you want." You're such a dynamo at the office that you're bound to have the occasional setback. Just take it in stride. It will all work out in the end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Things are zipping along so quickly, you feel like you're on a rocket ship to the stars, with all of life's little problems disappearing behind you like a tiny pinpoint of light. Can you hear me, Major Tom?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's a misconception that fish are colorblind. The amount of color a fish can see depends on how much light is down there in the deep. Get the full spectrum. Life may be a lot more vibrant than you think.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

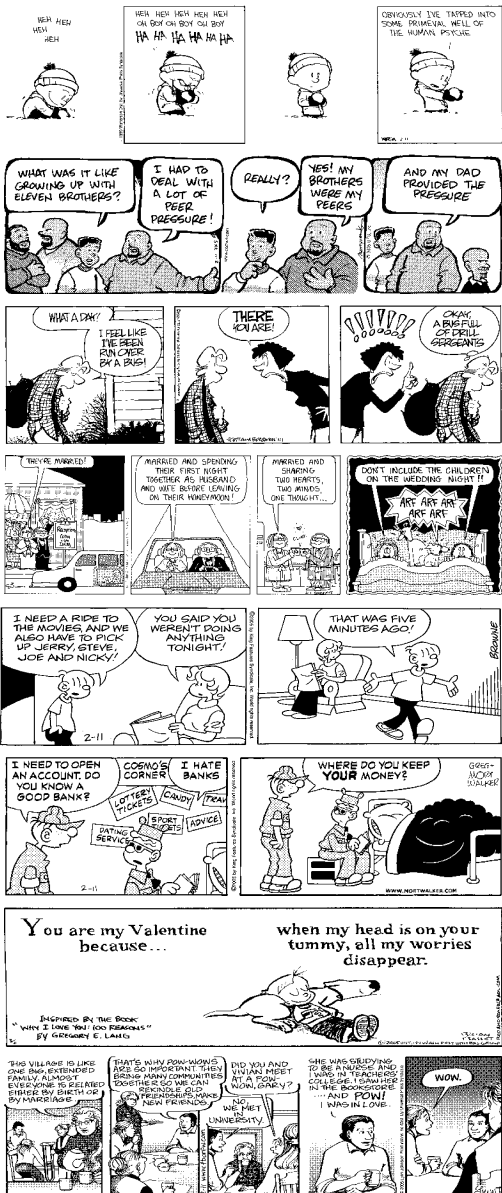
Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



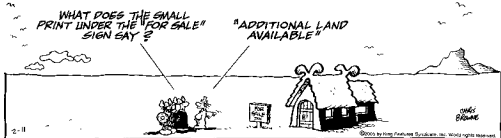
Blondie



Dilbert



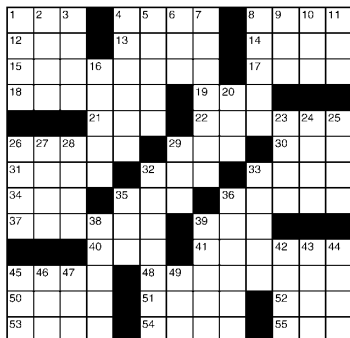
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Barbie's ex
- 4 Cushion inserts
- 8 Reveille's opposite
- 12 Latin 101 word
- 13 Acknowledge
- 14 Saxophone range
- 15 Aggressively active one
- 17 Let the cat out of the bag
- 18 "Seinfeld" role
- 19 Greek letter
- 21 — Moines
- 22 Midori's instrument
- 26 Vestige
- 29 Foundation
- 30 Mrs. McKinley
- 31 Legacy recipient
- 32 Fuel
- 33 Doctor's earnings
- 34 Curve
- 35 Saute
- 36 Blizzard aftermath
- 37 Much ado about nothing
- 39 Seek damages
- 40 Go lickety-split
- 41 Mortar's partner
- 45 Popular name for poodles
- 48 Tie
- 50 Related
- 51 Former filly
- 52 Actress Jillian
- 53 Fender bender
- 54 Arctic divers

Down

- 1 Hardy cabbage
- 2 Painter Nolde
- 3 PBS science show
- 4 Sold temporarily
- 5 Trellis climbers
- 6 Postal Creed word
- 7 Turns suddenly
- 8 Forbidden
- 9 The whole thing
- 10 Bake-sale org.
- 11 Turn on the waterworks
- 12 Duck down
- 20 Stashed
- 23 Stead
- 24 Mid-March date
- 25 Poet Ogden
- 26 Persian bigwig
- 27 Medal earner
- 28 Puerto —
- 29 Serenade the moon
- 32 Anna Mary Moses' nickname
- 33 Shlyock's demand
- 35 Winter woe
- 36 Napped leathers
- 38 Publish
- 39 Activate
- 42 Shipbuilding wood
- 43 Kegler's path
- 44 Sicilian spouter
- 45 Craze
- 46 White House nickname
- 47 Cod piece
- 49 H-deux-O

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-11

CRYPTOQUIP

T S KIM'Z BSASANSB ZTS
 HSMSBDK MIAS PE ZTS
 XDF, NQZ DZ'Y PM ZTS

ZDX PE TDY ZPMHQ S
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MOTION PICTURE CONCERNING SOME MISSING PANES WAS DUBBED "GONE WITH THE WINDOW."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals M

Day sleeper shouldn't be disturbed

Dear Abby: I work a night-shift job, as does my sister-in-law, who lives in my home. People who don't work nights cannot seem to understand the need for us to get our sleep during the day. They frequently call at noon, wondering why we're not up yet.

These people need to know that noon is just like midnight for people who work the day shift.

My answer: I go to work on less than four hours of sleep, mainly because if people can't reach me on the house phone, they'll call my cell phone, which is the emergency number for my husband and kids.

My answering machine clearly states that I "work nights and sleep days, so please leave a message and I'll return the call."

Your column is widely read, and I'm certain that a good number of other night-shift workers would appreciate it if you could spread the word: Those of us

who work nights need the same amount of sleep that people who work days do.

— **Sleepless in Missouri**
Dear Sleepless: I'm pleased to help spread the word. For callers to bypass your answering machine and use your cell phone number is rude, inconsiderate, and could endanger your health.

In the interests of self-preservation, change your cell phone number, and instruct your husband and kids not to disclose it to anyone.

Dear Abby: I am the happily married mother of 1-year-old and 2-year-old boys; "Jonathan" is the older and "Kevin" is my baby. Because my elderly parents live close by, we make sure they see our children often. Also, I make time every morning to talk to my mother.

It has become clear to my husband and me that Mom fa-

vors Jonathan. When Kevin was an infant, Mom would literally step over him to get to Jonathan. Until it caused a rift, she would "jokingly" refer to Kevin as "the other one."

I have confronted Mother more times than I can count. Most times she denies it; sometimes she says she feels Jonathan is just "special." The boys are still too young to understand, but it won't always be that way. My husband's family is not involved much in our lives, so mine is extra-important. How do I deal with this problem?

— **Distressed in Dayton**
Dear Distressed: Since reasoning with your mother hasn't helped, it's time to lay down the law. Tell her either she becomes a better actress in dealing with the boys, or you'll be forced to limit her access to them. And if she doesn't shape up, act on it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CUHDY

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SUGES

THROME

DABINT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: "_____"

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMMY TAFFY OCELOT GROTTOT

Answer: When he ordered one for the road, he — GOT A CAR

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrillon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: "_____"

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMMY TAFFY OCELOT GROTTOT

Answer: When he ordered one for the road, he — GOT A CAR

Abuses should be brought to light

Dear Annie: Several of our children, along with other children from our neighborhood, will be going back to their regular day camp this summer. There is one problem — "Willie" the son of the groundskeeper.

This lad is a vile-tongued, sadistic monster who teaches our kids vulgar language, tortures animals, steals, bullies and, in one instance, dumped liquid soap all over a kid's gym bag while the boys were changing clothes. In short, Willie is filthy and he learns it from his father.

Because Willie's father is an employee, the boy gets to do activities with the campers. When one camper came home in tears after Willie's treatment, we called the camp director. We were told Willie is unhappy because his grandfather (the only affectionate relative he had) died recently, and his father hits him as if he gets into trouble. The director is reluctant to tell his father to "straighten him

Annie's Mailbox



out." Are our children obligated to put up with this? I don't understand why this emotionally disturbed little trash bag has to be around my children. And please don't tell me I should ask my kids to show Willie love and kindness, because my children are not mental health professionals.

Can I legally force the camp director to do something? Other than this one problem, the camp is a wonderful place. But is it worth it to send my kids there?

— **Unsure**
Dear Unsure: You have more than one issue going on here. If Willie is being abused by his father, you have an obligation to report it to the authorities. If the camp is not protecting your child from an abusive campmate, you should not send your child there, and the director should know why. If Willie is torturing animals, he has some serious psychopathic tendencies and should

be seen by a therapist before he starts torturing little children the same way. It's time to speak up.

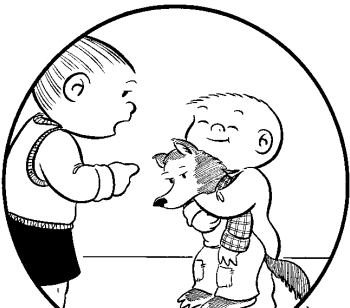
Dear Annie: I am writing about the letter from "Ex-Law Enforcement Civilian in Sacramento, Calif.," who was bullied at work by two women. Believe me, this is not an isolated case. Our son took his life after many months of harassment at his place of employment.

Shortly after his death, another employee took his life. We later found out that our son's death was the fifth suicide in 25 years for this company. Although your writer lost a nice pension, she escaped with her life intact. Unfortunately, our son did not.

— **A Wisconsinite**
Dear Wisconsinite: How horrible for you that this situation wasn't discovered and rectified before it was too late.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

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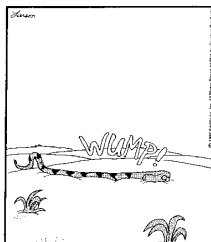
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The Far Side



When snakes trip

Non Sequitur



When snakes trip

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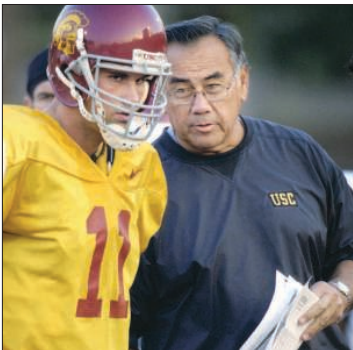
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Southern California offensive coordinator Norm Chow, shown talking with Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Matt Leinart last season, was hired Wednesday as offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans. In 32 years as a college assistant, Chow helped develop Heisman winner Ty Detmer, Jim McMahon and Hall of Famer Steve Young at BYU and, most recently Heisman winners Carson Palmer and Leinart at USC. Chow had been hoping for a college head coaching position after 32 seasons as an assistant but there were no offers. So he jumped to the pros and becomes another example of how the NFL is leaving the colleges behind in minority hiring.

AP



Through for loss

Colleges not keeping up with NFL in hiring of minority head coaches

The NFL's gain is college football's loss and further evidence that the directions on minority hiring.

Norm Chow, the architect of the offense that propelled Southern California to two straight national titles, hoped to become college football's first Asian-American head coach.

He waited 32 years, mentoring Heisman Trophy and Hall of Fame quarterbacks, going from BYU to North Carolina State to USC, designing high-scoring offenses everywhere he went.

He earned a national reputation. His phone number wasn't a secret. But precious few calls for head coaching jobs ever came.

On Wednesday, he stopped waiting, not out of the college ranks for at least a while, and signed on as offensive coordinator for the Tennessee Titans.

The dream to be a head coach hasn't faded. Chow called the Titans job "an opportunity for me and my family to get to the highest level of football." He downplayed reports of friction with USC coach Pete Carroll and spoke of his excitement of being in the NFL.

You'd think athletic directors would have been knocking each other over to hire a man like Chow. He worked with Heisman winner Ty Detmer, recently elected Hall of Famer Steve Young, Jim McMahon, Marc Wilson and Robbie Bosco during 27 years at Brigham Young. He guided stand-out quarterback Philip Rivers for a year at North Carolina State, then Heisman winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart at USC.

You'd think a man with that kind of record of success would have had his pick of schools to be a head coach.

You'd be wrong. College football is still largely run the way it's always been run, hirings made through the good 'ol boy network. There aren't many minorities among athletic directors and presidents, and they don't hire many minority coaches.

College football is going in the exact opposite direction as the NFL," said sports sociologist Richard Lapchick, who monitors race and gender issues at the Center for the Study of Diversity and Ethics at the University of Illinois.

In the NFL, the number of minority head coaches tripled to six since the "Rooney rule" was adopted two years ago. Over the same time, the number of minority head football coaches at the 117 NCAA Division I-A schools dropped from five to three.

"It was absolutely shocking that," Lapchick said, "that at the end of this year, after two consecutive national championships and everybody saying how great a coach he was, that Norm Chow didn't get offered a college head coaching job. It was very disheartening."

The day before Chow took the Titans' job, New England's defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel saw his long wait to be a head coach end when he was

Steve Wilstein

hired to lead the Cleveland Browns.

On the pro level, Crennel's credentials were every bit as impressive as were Chow's in college. In Crennel, a year younger at 37, earned two Super Bowl rings with Bill Parcells in New York and three with Bill Belichick in New England but never had the chance to run his own program until now.

In becoming Cleveland's first full-time black coach, Crennel is more proof that the league's diversity policy effort is working. That policy is all about opportunities, not quotas. It's about opening doors, not shutting people out. It's about giving qualified candidates a chance to succeed or fail on their own merits.

"My skin color is black, but I am a head coach," Crennel said. "I hope that I possess the qualities that are in a head coach with the leadership, organization, and the prioritizing. In many ways, I have been the only African-American on a staff or in the neighborhood. The best thing I can do for other minority candidates is be successful and role model."

Newly elected Hall of Famer Fritz Pollard was the NFL's first black coach in the early 1920s. There wasn't another until Art Shell took over the Raiders in 1989. Two years ago, the only black coaches were the Indianapolis Colts' Tony Dungy and the New York Jets' Herman Edwards.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, responding to pressure inside and outside the game to hire more minorities, appointed a committee headed by Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney that recommended a policy requiring all teams with opening vacancies to interview at least one minority candidate.

Marvin Lewis was hired by the Cincinnati Bengals last season. Last year, the Chicago Bears hired Lovie Smith. Dennis Green, who spent 10 seasons coaching the Minnesota Vikings, returned to the league with the Arizona Cardinals. Now with Crennel in Cleveland, and more than a dozen minorities holding offensive or defensive coordinator positions, the NFL is showing college sports the path to diversity.

Unlike Tagliabue, NCAA president Myles Brand cannot impose a hiring rule on all the schools. College presidents have to be willing to exhibit the same commitment to diversity as NFL owners.

"It just shows that if you open up the process, and if the owners themselves are involved, there will be change," NFL Players Union president Gene Upshaw said. "Over the past few years, the change in the NFL has been very substantial."

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: swilstein@ap.org

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First-time Pro Bowler Brees eager to return to Chargers

BY JAYMES SONG

The Associated Press

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Drew Brees came to Hawaii four years ago as a college all-star, looking to impress NFL teams in the Hula Bowl.

Brees is back on the islands, practicing with the league's best and preparing for his first appearance in the Pro Bowl. And he's looking forward to respect and a long-term contract from the San Diego Chargers.

Less than a year after San Diego let him but gave up on him and selected Philip Rivers on draft day, Brees is still basking in the glow of his superb season and the Chargers' AFC West title.

His performance at the end of his four-year contract earned him a spot alongside Peyton Manning and Tom Brady on the AFC roster for the NFL's all-star game Sunday. It also made him one of the NFL's most attractive free agents, but Brees would rather remain with the club that didn't seem eager to kick with him.

"I want to stay in San Diego, absolutely," he said. "I want a long-term deal, because I feel like

I'm the guy, I'm the guy that needs to be there and lead us to a championship, so that's the way I feel about it."

"The ball is in their court, obviously, and we'll just see what happens."

Brees' life has changed dramatically in the four years since he represented Purdue in the Hula Bowl.

"I got married, had good seasons and bad seasons, battled for my starting job on two occasions, been benched a few times," he said. "I guess it's been a learning experience, but it has molded me into the person and player that I am now."

Brees was voted the NFL's comeback player of the year after throwing for 3,159 yards and 27 touchdowns with just seven interceptions in the regular season. In the playoffs, he passed for 319 yards and two TDs in the 20-17 overtime loss to the New York Jets.

"We didn't accomplish our ultimate goal to win a championship, but we kind of paved the way for the future," he said. "We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to be

happy about. We just have to keep improving."

Teammate LaDainian Tomlinson, making his second Pro Bowl appearance, also wants Brees to stay, but the running back said he has no control over the situation. Tomlinson and Brees are close friends, and they planned to spend much of their free time in Hawaii together with their families.

"He's a leader. That sums it up in one word," Tomlinson said. "He's a good friend and a good teammate."

Brees and Tomlinson are San Diego's first quarterback-running back duo to make the Pro Bowl together since Dan Fouts and Chuck Muncie in the early 1980s. Tight end Antonio Gates also made the trip to Hawaii, joining his first Pro Bowl berth in just his second NFL season.

"Obviously, with guys like LT and Gates, I think we built a solid foundation," Brees said. "I think we all see in one another that we can build something special with the Chargers. We want to keep that continuity and keep those familiar faces around."

The Chargers might designate



Chargers quarterback Drew Brees plays catch with Patriots quarterback Tom Brady during an AFC practice for Sunday's Pro Bowl.

Brees as their franchise player this month, giving him a one-year contract offer worth around \$9 million. If Brees signs it, the club then could trade him or let him compete for the starting job with Rivers, who was obtained in a draft-day trade with the New York Giants.

Rivers held out for half of training camp, allowing Brees to keep the starting job — and Brees used the challenge to motivate himself to his best professional season.

And just as he did four years ago in the Hula Bowl, when many questioned his future as a 6-foot NFL quarterback, Brees is proving he's one of the best.

"We don't play to prove people wrong. There is some satisfaction out of that, but I think it's really just a personal fear of failure," he said. "It's the feeling that you want to be the best. Then you just fight, fight, fight to try to be that person, and you don't worry about what other people say."

McNabb denies claims he was ill in Super Bowl

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Donovan McNabb has no apologies for his Super Bowl performance. He won't allow his teammates to make excuses, either.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback set everyone straight after his first practice for the Pro Bowl on Wednesday. McNabb said he wasn't ill during the fourth quarter of the loss to New England, as center Hank Fraley claimed earlier this week, and receiver Freddie Mitchell certainly didn't call any plays for him.

The Eagles' offensive struggles were caused only by the Patriots and the tension of a Super Bowl, not a phantom sickness.

"No, I wasn't sick and, no, I didn't throw up," McNabb said. "If people want to use that as an excuse for why we lost, that's not the way it was, but I'll put it on my shoulders. I'll take the blame."

When you're trying to make every play possible, you have to dig deep. We were just trying to give it all we had."

McNabb raised the subject two days after Fraley told a Philadelphia TV station that his quarterback was seriously ill late in the game last Sunday, forcing Mitchell to help out in the huddle by calling a play. Mitchell said in another TV interview that he finished a play call.

McNabb "fought to the end. He gave it his all," Fraley said on Comcast SportsNet. "He could hardly call the plays — that's how exhausted he was trying to give it

his all. If you remember back when we played Jacksonville two years ago and he ended up puking, it was close to that scene. He exhausted everything he had."

While Fraley apparently meant to praise his quarterback's toughness by describing his condition, McNabb perceived it as an attempt to excuse the Eagles' performance in the second half. He was bothered by the endless television replays of Fraley's comments in recent days.

"When I heard about it, I was kind of upset," McNabb said. McNabb and his receivers desperately tried to get Philadelphia's offense going, but the quarterback added to his history of struggles in big games. He was 30-for-51 for 357 yards and three touchdowns, but also three interceptions.

As for Mitchell's play-calling claim, McNabb could only laugh at his gregarious receiver's boasts. "No, Freddie didn't call a play," he said. "I get the plays in my helmet, so he couldn't call a play."

McNabb felt sick during the week leading up to the Super Bowl, but he said it wasn't a serious illness. He also said he wasn't hurt during the game, even on a hard hit from New England's Richard Seymour.

Nine of McNabb's teammates were selected for the NFC squad in Hawaii, and their mood was considerably brighter after a workout for NFC coach Jim Mora. "I was just good to have something to do to forget about the Super Bowl," tackle Tra Thomas said.

Outside looking in



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Anisha Ingram, left, applies defensive pressure on Wiesbaden's Adrienne Woodley during a DODDS high school basketball game Tuesday night in Wiesbaden, Germany. Kaiserslautern, led by Blanca Gerna-Perez's 13 points, defeated Wiesbaden 41-26.

It's no longer

Bettman sets weekend deadline for deal or NHL shutdown

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

By this weekend, the NHL will either have a surprising deal that saves the hockey season or a dubious place in history.

The long-awaited deadline is set. If the league and the union can't hammer out a new collective bargaining agreement in this last round of talks that started secretly in Toronto on Wednesday, commissioner Gary Bettman will pull the plug.

The NHL would then have the distinction of being the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute.

Bettman would rather not have that mark on his record but cautioned that the right deal is necessary for the NHL to survive.

"This has just been a very difficult, frustrating process and again, we're sorry we have to go through it," he said. "But we had no choice."

Bettman and Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, had dinner late Wednesday night with players' association executive director Bob Goodenow and senior director Ted Saksin but there were no formal discussions, a source close to the negotiations said. Bettman's association was on condition of anonymity.

The group met again at the league's office in Toronto on Thursday morning.

The lockout reached its 148th day Thursday. If a deal is reached, Bettman said, there would be a 28-game regular season and the 16-team playoff structure would be preserved.

"It is clear to me that if we're



Bettman

union has to say, but we've given all we can give and gone as far as we can go.

Bettman and Daly visited the players' association office in Toronto. The union made it clear that it wasn't going to initiate new talks this week, so the league took a new offer to the players.

It wasn't received well. "It's really not whether there's a better deal or a worse deal — it's the right deal, it's the fair deal," Goodenow said. "We've always been focused on those principles."

The NHL handed over what it called "a compromise proposal."

It presented the idea that a new deal was made using the players' association's proposal from Dec. 9 that included a luxury-tax system and a 24 percent salary rollback on existing contracts.

But if any of our four financial conditions set forth by the league were exceeded, then the NHL's salary-cap offer from last week would go into effect the following season. Teams would then be forced to spend at least \$32 million on player costs but no more than \$42 million, including benefits.

not working on a written document by this weekend, I don't see how we can play any semblance of a season," Bettman said. "Obviously we will listen to everything the union has to say, but we've given all we can give and gone as far as we can go."

"The NHL delivered a one-page concept to us which they tried to suggest represented a compromise," Goodenow said.

"The league's proposal was a transparent attempt to impose on our Dec. 9 proposal the effects of their twice-rejected Feb. 2 tripe-cap proposal."

Goodenow said that one of the four limits would immediately be exceeded if this deal was put in place, and others could be easily reached.

The union asked Bettman and Daly to stay in Toronto through Thursday for negotiating sessions.

Goodenow said they would try to figure out new ways to get over the main stumbling block of a salary cap, but added that the players' association won't hand over a new proposal Thursday.

"We'll have conversations about these difficult areas and see if we can't come up with an idea, a framework or a mechanism for some common ground," Goodenow said. "The prospect that we'd be able to conclude an agreement by the end of the weekend is very daunting."

"It is possible, but I don't want to discuss the levels of probability."

The lockout has wiped out 824 of the 1,230 regular-season games through Thursday, as well as this weekend's scheduled All-Star game. If the season is canceled, there is no telling when there will be NHL hockey again.

The NHL has been intent on making a deal that protects the league from a revenue split between league revenues and player costs. The players' association has steadfastly refused to accept a salary cap as a solution to the stalemate.



Daron Rahvles shows the bronze medal he won Thursday in the men's giant slalom, his second medal of the world ski championships.

'Herminator' wins GS; Rahvles claims bronze

By ANDREW DAMPP

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Hermann Maier won the giant slalom in the world ski championships on Thursday, his first world or Olympic title since nearly losing his right leg in a motorcycle accident four years ago.

The Austrian missed the 2002 Olympics after shattering his right leg in the August 2001, crash. He returned for the second half of the 2002-03 season, and won his fourth World Cup overall title last year.

Maier hadn't won a gold medal, however, since winning the downhill and super-G races in the 1999 worlds at Vail, Colo.

"It's a great feeling for me because so many things have happened since this time six years ago," Maier said. "All the medals I've won are important, but this one has an even more specific meaning, after my crash being able to stand back up so to speak."

Maier, second after the first leg, completed two runs down the Stelvio course in 2 minutes, 50.41 seconds.

Fellow Austrian Benjamin Raich took the silver with the fastest second run, moving up from seventh after the opening leg. He finished 0.25 seconds behind for his third medal of the championships after taking bronze in super-G and winning the combined race.

First-run leader Daron Rahvles of the United States claimed the bronze, 0.68 back.

Rahvles was the final skier in the second leg. After seeing the American's time, Maier let out a loud scream in the finish area, and thrust his arms into the air toward his huge fan club.

"This is a very important victory for me, especially on this course which is very, very difficult," Maier said. "Daron was super on the first run and I knew he had six-tenths of a second, so I

had to be very good on my second run."

After the race's 24-hour postponement due to a strike by Italian TV workers, most of Maier's supporters paid an extra day's hotel bill to see him ski.

"The Herminator" did not disappoint and, having also won both speed races in the 1998 Olympics, earned his fifth gold in a major championship.

"I will pay for their rooms maybe with this prize money," Maier said.

Maier finished fourth in the super-G here and was 17th in the downhill.

He has struggled this season after switching boots to improve his performance in giant slalom. This was his fourth podium in GS this season, but first victory. In fact, this was Maier's first GS victory in any race since before his accident.

Giant slalom is Maier's favorite event and he won the GS in the 1998 Olympics. The injuries he suffered made it difficult to exert enough pressure on his right leg to handle the frequent turns. The Austrian had won only one previous race this season, taking the super-G in Kitzbuehel, Austria last month.

Defending champion Bode Miller, the American who leads this season's overall World Cup standings, needed two stitches to close a cut on his chin after he lost control on the first run and slammed into an advertising banner.

Miller will have to wait until Saturday's slalom race for a chance at a third gold medal after winning the super-G and downhill races.

Rahvles, who finished second behind Miller in the downhill, posted his best career giant slalom result. "I'm certainly happy to get a medal but I'm still disappointed. I knew I'd have to go for it but I was too round, too loose at the top," Rahvles said of his second run. "But the best thing for me today is to know my GS is there."

U.S. wins World Cup soccer qualifier

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad — Eddie Johnson knows this type of personal success probably won't last.

Johnson scored a goal in his fourth straight game to put the United States ahead against Trinidad and Tobago, Eddie Lewis headed the lead early in the second half and Kasey Keller made some great saves in a 2-1 victory Wednesday in the opener of the final round of World Cup qualifying.

"He's still a little bit inexperienced, but there's so many good qualities: size, strength, ability to take people on, speed, ability to head the ball," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said of the 20-year-old Johnson.

"Bruce told me it's only going to get harder," Johnson said. "I'm not going to score a goal in every game. It was tougher."

Less than three weeks ago, the Americans didn't even know if they would have their top players or need a team of minor league players because of a labor dispute. But an interim settlement ensured the regulars would be on

the field through 2005, and the 11th-ranked U.S. team imposed its will on No. 61 Trinidad and Tobago until tiring in the final minutes.

"It's massive," Keller said, "especially with all the drama that's gone on around the team. The guys came together and got a great victory."

Until Angus Eve scored in the 89th minute on a cross that went in off Keller's hand, the home team didn't have much reason to cheer.

The United States, which plays its next qualifier at Mexico on March 27, is 23-0-7 against North and Central American and Caribbean rivals since a September 2001 loss at Costa Rica. The Americans haven't lost to a Caribbean opponent since a 1994 defeat in Trinidad.

"There were a bunch of reasons why we didn't succeed so far," Arena said. "We never agreed with that. I think the way our team pulled together to overcome the last couple of weeks to be ready to play this game under difficult conditions — travel, field conditions, the heat, everything else — it turns out to be a fantastic result."

In the region's other qualifiers, Mexico won 2-1 at Costa Rica as Juan Lozano scored in the eighth and ninth minutes and Guatemala and Panama played a 0-0 tie in Panama City.

Ash Wednesday usually is a busy day in this Caribbean nation, where the Carnival celebration that ends the previous night is huge. But the steel and samba drum bands were sounding for the Soca Warriors in the searing 90-degree heat at the Queen's Park Oval, with T&T hoping to continue the celebration and exact revenge for the November 1989 loss to the Americans that denied it a berth in the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Johnson struck in the 30th minute, just as Paul Caligiuri did 15 years ago in the famous qualifier at nearby Hasley Crawford Stadium, a game that put the United States in soccer's top event for the first time since 1950.

Coming down the right flank of the 80-yard-wide field, Steve Cherundino crossed the ball into the penalty area and Johnson, with no defenders close on the near head, headed the ball into the net from 25 yards out. Goalkeeper Neil Shaka Hislop had no chance.

Referee suspended in German soccer scandal

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The referee who took bribes to fix games was suspended by the German Soccer Federation on Thursday in the country's worst corruption scandal in the sport in more than 30 years.

The federation said Robert Hoyer's suspension was for "un-sportsmanlike conduct." He has admitted rigging four games in return for \$85,000 from a gambling syndicate led by three Croatian brothers, who have been arrested. He tried to manipulate two other games without success, and in one game his help wasn't needed.

The growing scandal has overshadowed Germany's preparations to host next year's World Cup.

Hoyer has implicated others, and Berlin prosecutors are investigating 25 people, including three other referees and 14 players, on suspicion of fixing at least 10 games, mostly in the lower divisions.

Hoyer was questioned this week by a soccer federation lawyer, and faces another formal hearing that could result in a lifetime ban. If charged and convicted of fraud, Hoyer could spend up to 10 years in jail.

Former Iowa basketball player charged

ADEL, Iowa — Former Iowa basketball player Pierre Pierce was charged Wednesday with burglary and domestic assault and spent several hours in jail before he was released.

Pierce was also charged with burglary, false imprisonment, assault with intent to commit sexual abuse and criminal mischief.

Pierce was released late Wednesday on his own recognizance.

With the player's lawyer, Alfredo Parrish, said Pierce "intends to fight these charges with every fiber in his soul." A preliminary hearing was tentatively set for Feb. 21.

Pierce, the team's leading scorer, was kicked off the team after police confirmed he was the subject of an investigation into a matter at the townhouse of a former girlfriend.

UConn's Anderson hospitalized with leg infection

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut leading scorer Rashad Anderson is not expected to play in the Huskies' home game Sunday against second-ranked North Carolina because of an infection in his upper right leg, team officials said Thursday.

Anderson spent two nights at Windham Hospital, near the Storrs campus, but was transferred Thursday morning to Hartford Hospital for further treatment in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, school officials said in a statement. Anderson was checked into Windham on Tuesday for a skin abscess on his leg. He had the abscess drained and was put on intravenous antibiotics.

Anderson has averaged a team-best 13.8 points for the 19th-ranked Huskies.

Citing federal privacy laws, the school did not release further details.

Sports briefs

Lakers' Bryant will play in All-Star Game if healthy

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Although Kobe Bryant doesn't have a timetable for playing again for the Los Angeles Lakers, he intends to appear in the NBA All-Star Game if his severely sprained right ankle is healed. "The important thing is to be healthy," Bryant said Wednesday evening before the Lakers played the New Jersey Nets. "I am not going to feel obligated to play because it's the All-Star Game."

"The most important thing is helping us win ball games. If my ankle is ready to go, I'll play."

The game is scheduled for Feb. 20 in Denver.

Bryant, the NBA's second-leading scorer with a 27.5 average, missed his 13th straight game Wednesday night. The eight-year veteran was injured against Cleveland on Jan. 13.

Thrashers' Heatley signs with Russian team

MOSCOW — Dany Heatley signed with a Russian hockey team Thursday, less than a week after pleading guilty to charges in the 2003 death of Atlanta Thrashers teammate Dan Snyder and being sentenced to three years' probation.

Heatley, MVP of the 2003 NHL All-Star Game, will join Atlanta's Ilya Kovalchuk with AK Bars Kazan, which has signed several NHL players during the league's lockout. The team is based in the central Russian city of Kazan, about 450 miles east of Moscow.

Heatley pleaded guilty Friday to second-degree vehicular homicide, driving too fast for conditions, failure to maintain a lane and speeding for the Sept. 29, 2003, crash in Atlanta.

In exchange for his plea, the only felony charge — first-degree vehicular homicide — was dropped along with a charge of reckless driving. In addition to probation, Heatley was ordered to give 150 public speeches about the dangers of speeding.

Heatley, who was born in Germany, was selected by the Thrashers second overall in the 2000 NHL entry draft. He was a rookie of the year in the 2001-02 season. According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, more than 340 NHL players have signed with European clubs, although some have returned to North America.

Magic activate Hunter, put DeClercq on disabled list

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic activated forward Brandon Hunter from the disabled list Thursday.

Hunter missed the last 30 games because of a hyperextended right elbow. He also sat out the season's first eight games due to right Achilles tendinitis.

In five games, Hunter averaged 2.6 points and 1.6 rebounds.

Center Andrew DeClercq was placed on the injured list for a sore right knee. He played in eight games, averaging 1.1 points and 1.3 rebounds.

Steroids talk overshadows Selig's All-Star announcement

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Commissioner Bud Selig knew what direction questions would go when he came to the area that's been at the center of baseball's steroid scandal.

It took only a short time for the topic Wednesday to shift from San Francisco being awarded the 2007 All-Star Game to the controversy surrounding BALCO, Jose Canseco's upcoming book and baseball's new steroid policy.

"I'm shocked it took 10 minutes for somebody to ask that question," Selig said when asked about the book by Canseco that reportedly accuses Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Ivan Rodriguez, Rafael Palmeiro and Juan Gonzalez of steroid use.

The new book by Oakland's former MVP and the BALCO investigation that has cast a cloud over Giambi, Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and other players has made the Bay Area the center point of the steroid controversy.

Selig wouldn't directly comment on Canseco's book, but said baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson, a former president and general manager of the A's, would address the book after it's released next week.

Selig did say he is confident that baseball's new steroid policy will be in place when spring training opens next week and dismissed criticism that it does not go far enough to rid the game of performance-enhancing drugs.

"As a sport, we have done everything that we could at this point," he said. "There are immediate penalties, random testing, a player gets publicly named if heaven forbid he does test positively."

"I'm very sensitive about this whole subject, but I think the sport has addressed it. It isn't as if we have ignored it."

Baseball didn't have a steroid policy until 2002, when allegations by former MVPs Canseco



and Ken Caminiti pressured players and management to negotiate one into the new labor agreement.

That policy, which consisted of only survey testing the first year and no suspensions until a second positive test after that, was ridiculed as ineffective.

With some of its biggest stars under suspicion and lawmakers demanding action, baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program last month that will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

Pettitte has first workout from mound since surgery

HOUSTON — Houston Astros pitcher Andy Pettitte threw 25 fastballs Wednesday in his first

workout on the mound since he had elbow surgery six months ago.

"It felt good just to get back on the mound," Pettitte told Houston television station KRIV. "Just now I can start getting ready, just building up my arm strength."

Pettitte underwent surgery during the summer to repair a torn flexor tendon in his pitching elbow. Because of the injury, he appeared in only 15 games and finished 6-4.

Cubs trade RHP Farnsworth to Tigers

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs traded right-handed reliever Kyle Farnsworth and a player to be named to the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday for pitcher Robert Novoa and two minor leaguers.

Farnsworth, whose fastball has been clocked at 100 mph, was 4-5 with a 4.73 ERA last season for Chicago. He struck out 78 batters in 66 1/3 innings.

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Calipari wins 300th vs. No. 9 Louisville

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville coach Rick Pitino insists that the ninth-ranked Cardinals should not yet be considered one of the nation's elite teams.

Now, he has a game film to prove it.

Freshman point guard Darius Washington scored 25 points and Memphis coach John Calipari earned his 300th victory Wednesday night in the Tigers' 85-68 rout of Louisville.

The Cardinals (20-4, 8-2 Conference USA) were leading the nation in margin of victory coming in at plus-23, but were dominated from the start by the more aggressive Tigers.

"I knew it was coming," Pitino said. "I just didn't think it would be this bad."

Taquan Dean and Ellis Myles each scored 17 points for Louisville, which suffered its worst home loss in four seasons under Pitino.

The Cardinals were outbounded 41-30 and shot a season-low 33 percent (19-for-58).

Rodney Carney added 24 points and Anthony Rice had 15 — all in the second half — for the Tigers (14-10, 7-3 Conference USA), who beat a Top 25 team on the road for the first time in five tries this season and snapped Louisville's nine-game winning streak.

"I'm calm now," said Calipari, who turns 46 on Thursday. "But when I get near the plane, I'm going to do some back-flips up the steps. I'm so happy."

Calipari has a 300-120 record in 13 seasons at Massachusetts and Memphis.

No. 3 Kansas 74, Kansas St. 65: At Manhattan, Kan., Wayne Simien, J.R. Giddens and Keith Langford combined for 65 points and the Jayhawks (19-1, 9-0 Big 12) withstood a late rally to post their 29th straight victory over the Wildcats.

Kansas has a 22-game winning streak on Kansas State's home floor, a run that began in 1984.

Fred Peete and Jeremiah Mas-



sey each had 20 points for Kansas State (13-7, 3-6), which used a 14-2 run to get within 58-54 with 4:21 to go.

No. 13 Michigan St. 83, Ohio St. 69: At East Lansing, Mich., Chris Hill went 8-for-10 from the field and scored 26 points to lead the Spartans.

Hill was 6-for-7 from three-point range and made all four of his free throws in the highest scoring game this season for Michigan State (16-4, 7-2 Big Ten).

Maurice Ager, who was bothered by an illness, scored 18 points on 6-for-7 shooting for the Spartans, while Alan Anderson added 16 points and Paul Davis had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 17 Alabama 72, Tennessee 54: At Knoxville, Tenn., Kennedy Winston scored 18 points and Alabama outbounded Tennessee by 24.

Chuck Davis had 16 points and a career-high 13 rebounds and Jermaine Davidson added 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Crimson Tide (18-4, 7-2 Southeastern Conference).

C.J. Watson had 15 points for the Volunteers (11-12, 4-6), who have lost six straight to Alabama.

No. 20 Wisconsin 72, Iowa 69: At Madison, Wis., Kamron Taylor and Mike Wilkinson sparked Wisconsin's comeback from a 13-point second-half deficit.

Taylor, a sophomore, scored a career-high 26 points and Wilkinson added 20 points and four crucial blocks for the Badgers (16-5, 7-3 Big Ten), who trailed 52-39 with 12:43 remaining.

Greg Brunner scored 27 points for the Hawkeyes (15-7, 3-6).

No. 25 Texas Tech 83, Baylor 67: At Lubbock, Texas, Ronald Ross was 8-for-10 from the field and scored 25 points for the Red Raiders (15-5, 7-2 Big 12), who took control with a 15-0 run in the second half.

Duke: Tar Heels again fall painfully short at Cameron

DUKE, FROM BACK PAGE

With the seconds ticking away, he forced a pass to Noel, who lost the ball on the sideline and sent the Cameron Crazies into an ear-splitting celebration.

"It seemed like a long time, and I was just hoping that that clock went down before they got a shot off," Nelson said. "We played some great defense, and we made them try to do something that they weren't ready for."

Felton said he should've taken the open shot.

"It was a mistake I made," Felton said. "I was looking for Rashad on the other side of the screen, so I took it back out. He

wasn't open, and Sean wasn't open on the slip. So the whole play just got terminated just like that."

North Carolina looked poised to stun the Blue Devils, rallying from a 67-56 deficit with about five minutes left. Felton finally managed to get penetration and score six quick points, while McCants — in the Tar Heels' only fast-break basket of the game — hit a layup to make it 71-70 with 51 seconds left.

Then came that painfully familiar feeling.

"People around Chapel Hill will probably be talking about this game until we play them again," May said.

SPORTS



Commissioner Bettman sets weekend deadline for deal to salvage season, Page 33

Duke dumps Carolina

No. 2 Tar Heels dribble away last chance vs. No. 7 Devils

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — For the second straight year, Roy Williams watched North Carolina squander a chance to win in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

David Noel dribbled the ball out of bounds as the buzzer sounded, sealing the second-ranked Tar Heels' 71-70 loss to No. 7 Duke on Wednesday night. It was their 15th loss in the last 18 meetings with the Blue Devils, and fourth in a row at Duke.

It was another painful finish for the Tar Heels (19-3, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) in an arena where they have won only once in nine years. Last season, they trailed by three points when Rashad McCants lost the ball in front of the Carolina bench with 4.4 seconds left in a 70-65 loss.

This time, they couldn't get off a final shot in a game in which they trailed most of the way.

"We'd have folded last year and got beat by 20," said Sean May, who had 23 points and 18 rebounds. "We had an opportunity to win. We just didn't make the play at the end."

The botched possession capped a night in which Duke's defense harassed Raymond Felton and the Tar Heels, who couldn't protect the ball, get out in transition or score the points that have come so easily all season.

Duke (18-2, 8-2) kept the game almost entirely in the halfcourt, slowing the pace and derailed an offense that came in averaging a national-best 92 points per game. North Carolina finished with 23 turnovers — eight coming from the normally sure-handed Felton — that led to 26 points for the Blue Devils.

Instead of running with the Tar Heels, Duke held the ball on many possessions, milking time and letting J.J. Redick, DeMarcus Nelson or Daniel Ewing drive in the waning seconds of the shot clock. The strategy worked perfectly.

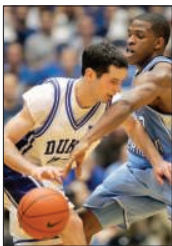
"They slowed us down when they got the job done on offense," Williams said. "I mean, they spread the floor and controlled the tempo that way. And in their pressure defense, there's no question that bothered us, too."

Duke went 21-for-22 from the free-throw line, punishing the Tar Heels each time they failed to play foul-free defense.

"When you're trying to play good defense for 35 seconds



Duke fans watch as North Carolina's Jackie Manuel falls into the crowd chasing the ball during the second half against Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C. on Wednesday. Duke won 71-70. North Carolina lost to Duke for the 15th time in the past 18 meetings and has won only once at Cameron in nine years.



Duke's J.J. Redick, left, guarded by North Carolina's Rashad McCants during the second half on Wednesday night, scored 18 points in Duke's victory.

every time and end up with a foul, that takes a lot out of the team," said McCants, who finished with 11 points on 3-for-13 shooting.

The Blue Devils committed 15 turnovers and shot just 36 percent, but built an early lead and answered every North Carolina run to keep momentum in front of a raucous crowd. North Carolina, which trailed 36-29 at halftime, twice tied the game only to see Redick and Ewing hit three-pointers on the following possessions.

Redick finished with 18 points and hit four threes, while Nelson provided a huge contribution with 16 points. That included two three-pointers in a span of about 90 seconds in the second half to help Duke take a 49-42 lead. The freshman also made all four of his free throws, belying his 51 percent season average — something a despondent McCants pointed out in the locker room after the game.

"It was obvious that DeMarcus just played at a level, or even a couple of levels, higher than he's played," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We really needed that. To win a game like this, at times you need something that's different from what you normally do. DeMarcus did that."

For the Tar Heels, Nelson's contribution was just one of several plays that turned the game in the favor of the Blue Devils. But it was their failure to get off the potential game-winner that stood out.

After Redick missed a three-pointer with the shot clock winding down, North Carolina got the ball with 18 seconds left. The play was designed for Felton to hit McCants on the wing or May inside, but neither was open. Felton spun away from Ewing and had an open look, but passed it up.

SEE DUKE ON PAGE 35



Maier wins GS, claims first title in skiing worlds since motorcycle accident in 2001

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No. 9 Louisville done in by poor defense against Memphis

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Heat, Lakers get strong individual efforts in OT victories

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QB Brees wants long-term deal from Chargers

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